THE SHAKERITE

December 20, 2006 • Volume 77 • Issue 4• Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

state.
UNDATION
OMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
ploring Issues of Civic Responsibility
Speak
Up

Facing up to ourselves

Senior Lauren Saks challenges fellow students to help improve lunchroom integration in her Dec. 5 speech.

NOTEWORTHY, PAGE 4

AN ELEPHANT WHO'S NOT SO WORRIED

COLUMNIST MICHAEL COWETT GIVES HIS OPTIMISTIC TAKE ON THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S ELECTION LOSSES.

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RELIGIONS REVEALED

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VENTURING INTO THE WOODS

FLIP TO LIMELIGHT TO HEAR TEDDY CAHILL'S TAKE ON SHAKER THEATER'S FALL PRODUCTION.

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COVER SHOT

Senior Lauren Saks speaks along side Taylor Branch Dec. 5. Both Saks and Branch spoke about discrimination and segregation and encouraged students to be active in addressing these important issues. Facing History and Ourselves, a non-profit educational organization, sponsored Branch's appearance. Photo by Adam Maraschky

What's Inside

12.20.06

EDITORS' NOTE

Face history to improve the future

What's better than a dreadlocked 'social justice warrior' when it comes to addressing current high school integration issues? A balding Pulitzer Prize winner.

WESLEY LOWERY

ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN

Continuing down the path laid out by administrators last year, the appearance of Taylor Branch revived student dialogue on the touchy topics of race, discrimination and segregation.

And this time, it's not just the administration we'd like to thank, it's Facing History and Ourselves, an organization bent on ensuring that students are properly educated in the realms of racism, prejudice and anti-Semitism; as well as social studies teacher Andi Glickman, whose efforts continue to help bring organizations such as FHAO to Shaker.

In a community that has already set the bar for public school integration, our continual efforts at improvement not only showcase our humility but also allow us to continue to remain at the front of the pack. Shaker is one of the only schools where the achievement gap is discussed as often as parabolas and ellipses, and where efforts to solve segregation in the lunchroom are as numerous as those to renovate it. Yet despite our unprecedented accomplishments in the arena of race relations it is fair to ask how far we have really come in recent years.

Senior Lauren Saks put it best when she asked in her Dec. 5 speech, "How much of [Dr. Martin Luther King's] dream do we have yet to accomplish?"

While it's tough to judge exactly how much further there is to go down the path to equality, it's easy to see that we're not there yet. However, partnering with organizations like FHAO is a step in the right direction.

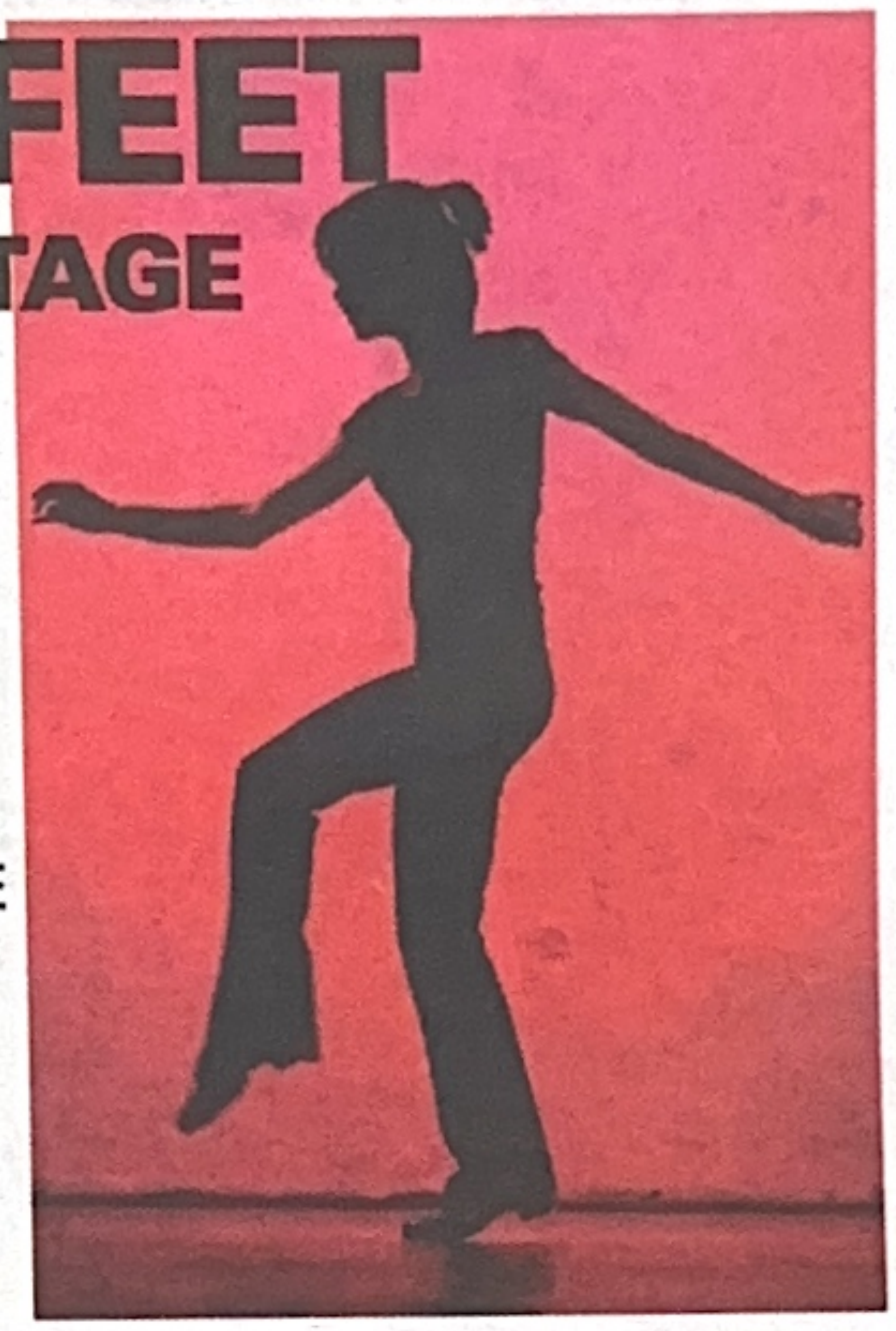
Guest speakers provide a fresh face to an old message, and though the events are sometimes a pain to organize, the insight they provide is too essential to pass up. An increase in race-related events such as the Calvin Terrell assembly last year and Taylor Branch's appearance earlier this month help to facilitate student discussion that is both open and honest.

But now's not the time to pat ourselves on the back, because the battle against prejudice is far from finished. Students need to continue to participate in events and discussions that deal with race related topics.

For those educators who've already bent over backwards to bring us captivating speakers and worthwhile events, please, keep bending. And for those of you who have been MIA in the war against intolerance, now is the time to do your part towards ending self-imposed segregation and fighting culturally inbred racial stereotypes.

If we don't addresses history's issues now we are only asking to face them in the future.

FAST FEET LIGHT UP STAGE



LIMELIGHT EDITOR CARRIE REESE REVIEWS THE CONCERT IN DANCE. HEAD OVER TO LIMELIGHT TO GET THE SCOOP.

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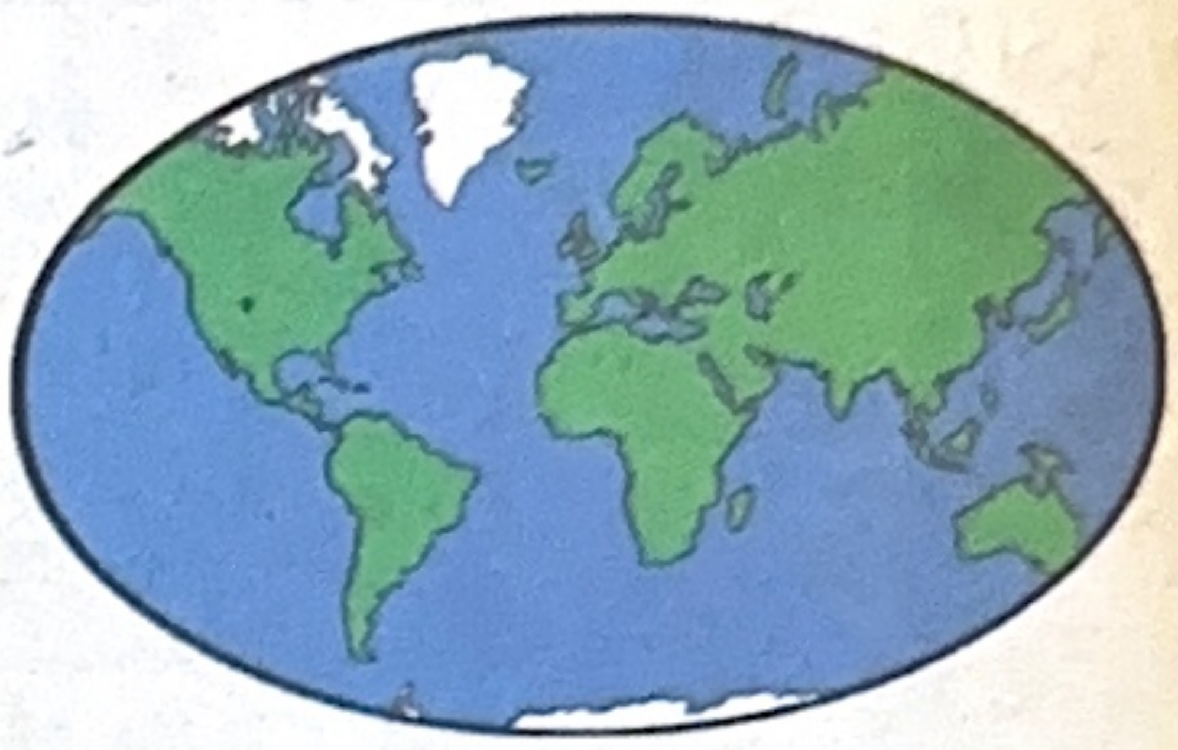

EXCHANGE STUDENTS NOT SO FORIEGN

CHECK OUT THE BEAT TO GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH SIX OF YOUR FAVORITE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

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THE SHAKERITE
Volume 77 • Issue 4
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This Month

12.20.06

JANUARY HAS MORE THAN JUST FINALS TO OFFER

January is always hard to get through. Winter break ends, finals start and it is the middle of winter. But don't worry; this month is filled with exciting sporting events such as hockey and basketball games as well as fun holidays like Winnie the Pooh Day. If that won't do it for you, find some motivation to make it to February, as of Jan. 1, there are 62 school days until spring break and 103 until summer. So, don't stress out too much and try to enjoy the first month in 2007!

IN A SHAKER MINUTE...

A DAY TO SLEEP

No, you are not dreaming. Festival of Sleep Day is an opportunity to sleep in, snooze, doze, nap, and catch some z's. This is the perfect time to spend a day sleeping since the holidays are over. Because of the cold weather ideal to hibernate, and it's almost necessary to re-charge the batteries after New Year's Eve and before school begins. Grab your stuffed animal, pillow and blanket and cozy up in bed to begin the festivities of Sleep Day.

DAY FOR THE SQUIRRELS

Squirrel Appreciation Day is an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate your tree-climbing, nut gathering neighborhood squirrels. This holiday is held in mid-winter when food sources are scarce for squirrels. Although they are known for ruining vegetable gardens, attacking bird feeders and pumpkins and running in front of fast moving cars, squirrels need to feel the love too. So give them an extra special treat today by putting out food for them.

FIRST SEMESTER FINALS SCHEDULE

JAN. 19

Foreign Language:
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Social Studies:
1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

JAN. 22

English:
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Math:
1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

JAN. 23

Science:
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Make-ups:
1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

JAN. 24 & 25

Make-ups:
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Make-ups
1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day	2 Festival of Sleep Day Winter Break (No School) Cavs San Antario Spurs p.m. @ 7 (H)	3 Cavs Boston Celtics @ 7:30 p.m. (A)	4	5 Cavs Milwaukee Bucks @ 8:30 p.m. (A) X St. Edwards (Winterhurst) @ 5:45 p.m. (A) M Euclid @ 7:30 (A)	6 Cavs New Jersey nets @ 7:30 p.m. (H) W Lakewood @ 6 p.m. (A) M Glenville @ 3 p.m. (H) X Trinity (Garfield Heights Rink) @ 8 p.m. (A)
7	8	9 Cavs Sacramento Kings @ 10 (A) ≫ Mentor @ 6 (H)	10	11 Cavs Phoenix Suns @ 10:30 (A)	12 X Hudson @ 9 p.m. (H) M Lakewood @ 7:30 p.m. (H)	13 Cavs Los Angeles Clippers @ 10:30 (A) W Cleveland Heights @ 2 p.m. (A)
14 X Benedictine (Orr Arena) @ 2:45 p.m. (A)	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)	16 Cavs Seattle SuperSonics @ 10 p.m. (A)	17 ♪ Winter Orchestra Concert @ 7:30 p.m. X Lake Catholic (Mentor Rink) @ 7:15 (A) W Shaw @ 6 p.m. (A) M Cleveland Heights @ 6 p.m. (H) Cavs Portland Blazers @ 10 p.m. (A)	18 Winnie the Pooh Day 	19 Finals Begin X Padua @ 9 p.m. (H) ≫ Cleveland Heights @ 7 p.m.(H) Cavs Denver Nuggets @ 10:30 p.m. (A)	20 Cavs Golden State Warriors @ 10:30 (A) ≫ Orange @ 6 p.m. (H) W Euclid @ 6 p.m. (H) M Shaw @ 1:30 p.m. (H)
21 Squirrel Appreciation Day	22 Cavs Orlando Magic @ 7 p.m. (H)	23	24 W West Geauga @ 6 p.m. (H) Cavs Philadelphia 76ers @ 7 p.m. (H)	25	26 Professional Day (No School) M Mentor @ 7:30 p.m. (A) X St. Edwards @ 9 p.m. (H)	27 Holocaust Memorial Day M Warrensville @ 2 p.m. (A) W Euclid @ 6 p.m. (A) SAT 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
28 North Olmsted @ 3:30 p.m. (A)	29 2nd Semester Begins	30	31			

Calendar Key

X Hockey
M Men's Basketball
W Women's Basketball
≫ Swimming and Diving
♪ Concert
Cavs Cleveland Cavalier Game

Infographic by Sarah Brandon • The Shakerite

2007: A YEAR FOR SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTIONS

Finding a New Year's resolution isn't the hard part; lose weight, be more organized and save money. But sticking to your resolution can be tricky. These ten tips to success can help you accomplish your goal. Make 2007 the year you finally achieve your resolution!

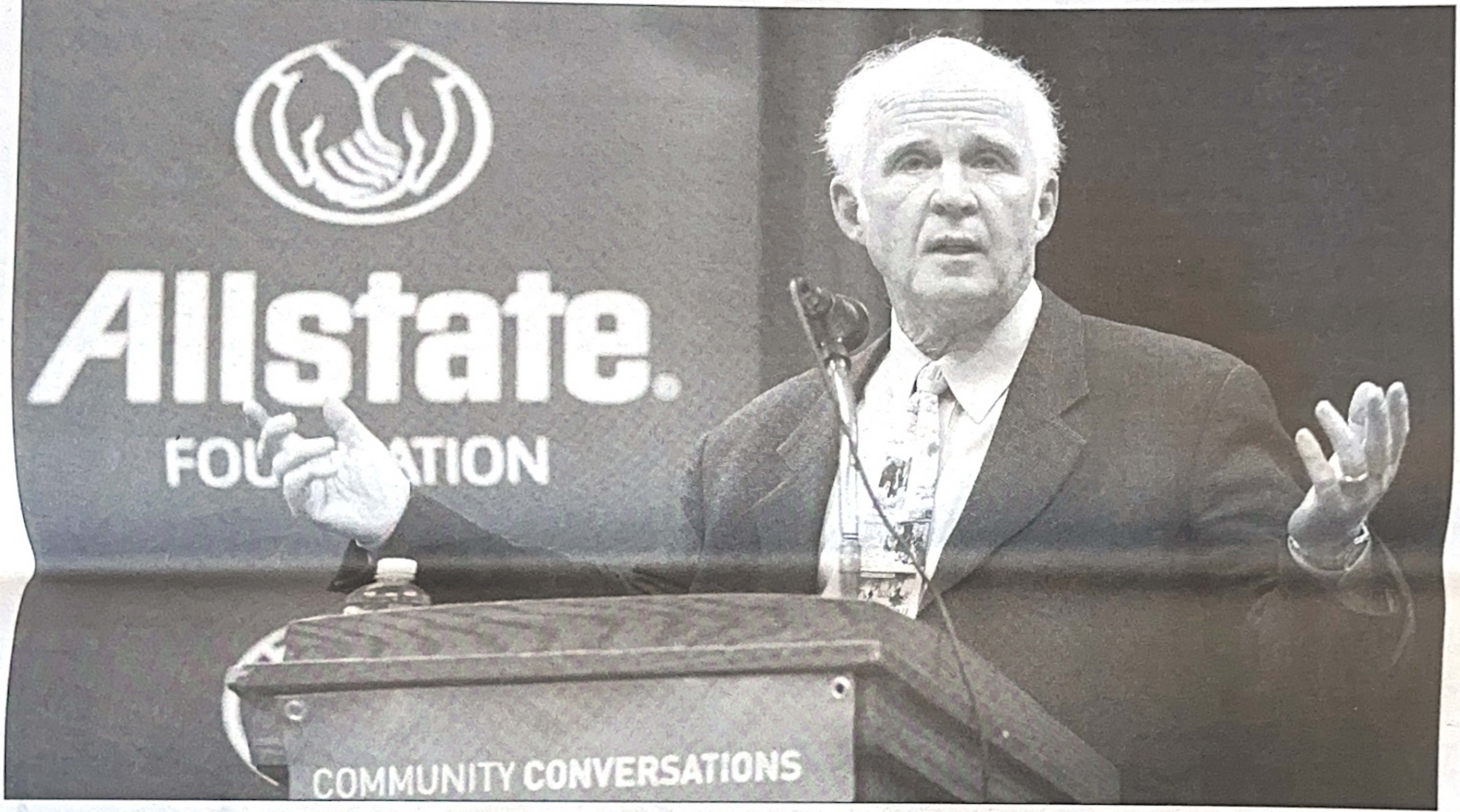
1. **Write them down.** It's a fact: writing down your goals gives you a high chance of success.
2. **Tell people.** Let the people your around most know of your new commitments and goals for the year so they can help you stay on track.
3. **Form a support group.** If you're working with others who are trying to achieve the same goals, you can all support and encourage each other, which will make the road to success easier.
4. **Make a plan.** Start with the end vision of where you want to be and work backwards to where you are today. This way you'll have an easy plan to follow that'll make your goal a reality.
5. **Be realistic.** If you're contemplating working on a goal that you unsuccessfully try year after year, take a second look. Reflect and figure out why you failed and try to avoid repeats.
6. **Believe in yourself.** If you have the confidence that you will reach your goal, than you have a better chance of doing so.
7. **Focus with reminders.** Find ways to frequently remind yourself of your goals and your plan to achieve it. Put up post-it notes on your bathroom mirror or a reminder on your cell phone. Figure out what works best for you.
8. **Visualize the result.** People who visualize themselves achieving their goal are more likely to achieve it. Visualize yourself stepping on that scale and seeing your goal weight or finally perfecting that 3-pointer.
9. **Make mini goals.** If you make small goals along the way to your overall goal, it'll give you a feeling of achievement, which will in turn motivate you to continue. It will help you focus more on what is directly ahead of you instead of the big picture that often intimidates people.
10. **Relax!** If you stress too much about achieving your goal, you're much more likely to quit. Give yourself room to make mistakes. And enjoy the road to success.

Compiled by Sarah Brandon

CLEAN AIR IN PUBLIC PLACES

Issue 5, nicknamed the Smoke Free Ohio bill, passed Nov. 7, effectively creating a smoke-free environment in public places and workplaces in the state of Ohio. The bill was instituted Dec. 7, creating a statewide clean indoor air law through a process called an initiated statute. The legislature guarantees that all indoor air in public places and workplaces will be free from secondhand smoke. Locations included in the bill are offices, factories, restaurants, bars and bowling alleys.

TOLERANT, BUT ACCEPTING?



Adam Maraschky • The Shakerite

TAYLOR BRANCH SPOKE about Martin Luther King Jr. and non-violent methods of change Dec. 5 at the high school. He received a Pulitzer Prize for chronicling the of the life and work of King

• Taylor Branch, with help from students, advocates for the end of self-imposed segregation

BY WESLEY LOWERY
EDITIOR IN CHIEF

In front of her mother, various local political leaders and a Pulitzer Prize winning author, senior Lauren Saks stepped to the microphone and delivered topics that weighed heavily on her heart: race, discrimination and segregation.

The Shaker student's four minute speech concluded an evening headlined by the appearance of Taylor Branch, an acclaimed civil rights historian whose "America in the King Years" series has won him multiple awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. The Dec. 5 event consisted of two question and answer sessions with Branch, a closed dinner featuring prominent community leaders as well as an open session in the large auditorium.

The event was held by Facing History and Ourselves, a non-profit organization which trains teachers to instruct students on racism and anti-Semitic feelings.

Jill Penate, an administrator at the FHAO Cleveland office, said that speech was one of many learning opportunities offered by the program. "Typically, we hold two to three speaker-oriented events a year," said Penate.

In his large group speech, Branch, who was raised in Atlanta, reflected on his education, home life and proximity to the Civil Rights Movement.

"It was a real dam-breaking for me," said Branch. "The Civil Rights Movement dissolved the emotional distance between myself and the issues of race and segregation."

Branch expressed his gratitude to those who have helped to further the Civil Rights Movement, not only for their contributions to race relations, but for bringing the topic of race back into the public dialogue.

"The people of the moment were founders, of not only this uprising, but of the resurgence of American ideals," said Branch, who added that segregation is an "innate instinct that can only be solved through better public discourse."

Sophomore Peter Heggs not only attended the speech, but also purchased all three books in the "America in the King Years" series. "Mr. Branch was very riveting," said Heggs, who attended the speech due to his interest in the civil rights movement.

Branch spoke briefly on the premise of his trilogy, which chronicles the life and times of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. The bulk of his time, however, was not spent addressing his works, but rather appealing for the adoption of non-violent tactics in the struggles to improve global civil rights. Branch credits the non-violent stance of leaders such as King for effectively attaining improvements in civil rights.

"This is the power of our strength, this is the power of American ideals," said Branch. "ideals are our strength."

Following a short question and answer segment with the author, Saks, who received the opportunity to speak after participating in a FHAO course last year, took the podium. Her speech called on fellow students to be active in solving self-segregation in the cafeteria and hallways. She urged students to help solve the high school's racial issues by spreading the message of equality.

"Our efforts need to expand beyond the confines of this auditorium," said Saks.

Principal Michael Griffith found Saks' speech appropriate for her audience. "It was on target," said Griffith, who later added, "It made me proud that one student felt comfortable and confident sharing the things that aren't where we want them to be."

Griffith agreed with Saks' critique of the current lunchroom segregation. "She hit right on the head of what is a real issue," said Griffith, who said that integration efforts should not stop at tolerance. "Of course we're tolerant, but are we embracing, are we accepting?"

Saks believes that only students can end the self-imposed segregation currently plaguing the high school. "It's not just the cafeteria, it's in the hallways, classrooms and even door ways," said Saks.

As for Branch, he encouraged high school students to engage in meaningful discussions about race.

"The thing that's really important is to ask questions, to find out if people share the same concerns," said Branch. "You can never know when your generation's real test is going to come."

BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- In 2007 the high school cafeteria will undergo both expansion and renovation. The addition to the southeast side of the building will provide greater efficiency, and will not require moving kitchen equipment from its current location. The total estimated cost is between $2 million and $2.5 million, to be provided by bond issue funds. Future additions to the project include installing larger ovens in order to permit foods to be baked instead of fried, lowering health risks.

- Shaker has been selected as one of seven schools *in Ohio to pilot a Mandarin Chinese curriculum for elementary students*, beginning in the 2008-09 school year. The program will be funded by a federal grant awarded to Ohio and three other states.

CITY COUNCIL

- City Council voted unanimously to authorize an official proclamation honoring Robert C. Tucker, a Shaker resident who was a pioneer in the founding of the city's sucessful diversion program. Tucker helped found the community program in 1998 and has been a volunteer magistrate in the program since.

- Council voted 6-1 in favor of a requested 50-cent increase in the cost of daily pool passes. Council also approved changes in the rates for early-bird registration, partial swim passes and the non-resident daily pass.

- City Council agreed to require residents to obtain a photo identification card in order to utilize the new skate park and basketball courts at Thornton Park. Residents who hope to be able to use both areas will only have to pay a one-time fee of $5, but will be required to present the identification card befor using the facilities.

USA NEWS

1. SAVANNAH, GA.

Nov. 27 – According to the AP, two 14-year-old students were arrested and charged with reckless conduct and possession of a weapon on school property by police Nov. 27 after bringing a homemade bomb to school with them. One of the students is accused of making the bomb with firecrackers, gun pellets and metal shavings. The other student then allegedly took the bomb home with him, but after being urged by an administrator brought it back to school.

2. TRENTON, N.J.

Nov. 28 – In 1961, Charles S. and Marie Robertson made one of the largest ever academic donations to Princeton University. The relatives of the couple claim that the university has used the gift for progects other then its inteded purpose, by not spending the gift on the education of students for careers in government. The Associated Press reported that the family members now want the donation, valued at more than $750 million today because of inflation, returned.

3. EDWARDSVILLE, ILL.

Nov. 29 – After a fight arranged on the social network MySpace.com, took place on school grounds, a dozen high school students were expelled from their Edwardsville school. The AP reported that 11 girls and one boy took part in the fight, but that no one was critically injured. Prior to the incident, administrators were working with the students and their parents to avoid the conflict.

4. LOS ANGELES

Dec. 5 – The University of Southern California revoked the re-election of the editor in chief of The Daily Trojan, the school's student-run newspaper. The AP reported that the school has banned Zach Fox from accepting the position for a second time. Fox resigned Nov. 28 after learning that the university would override his re-election by the newspaper's staff. Other college newspapers published editorials Dec. 5 denouncing the action of the university as a betrayal of "the fundamental value of the press," the AP reported.

5. KYLE, TEXAS

Dec. 6 – A sheriff deputy's son, James Rutledge, is charged with taking an explosive with him to Jack C. Hays High School, about 20 miles south of Austin. The AP reported that three additional students were also charged in connection with the incident after they reportedly made the device out of gasoline and plastic foam. School officials believe that the students had not planned to harm the school or students.

Bobby O'Connor The Shakerite
Compiled from NYTimes.com
Compiled by Bobby O'Connor

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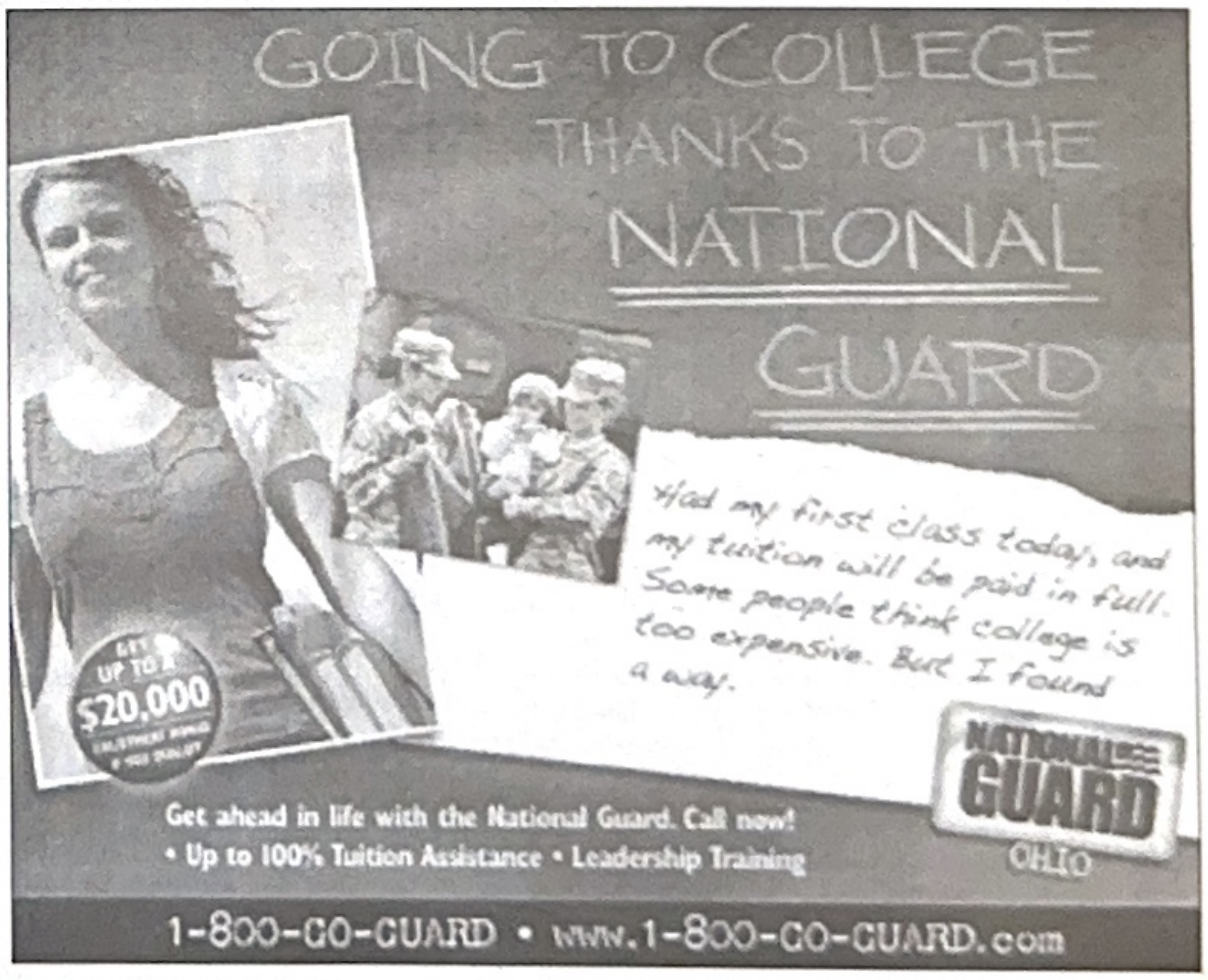

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LESSON CHANGES AREN'T FAIR

Everyone has weeks when there just isn't time for homework, but it seems like teachers are more accommodating of some student obligations than others. While it is considerate of teachers to lighten up on homework during tech week, it is not their responsibility to rearrange their schedules for a small group of students. Extracurricular activities are just that: extra. It is the responsibility of students to figure out how to fit it all in. Since it is impossible to accommodate everyone, students need to work around extracurricular activities on their own.

GOP needs to return to roots

MICHAEL COWETT

The election of 2006 was, for the Republican Party, perhaps the best thing that could have happened. Coming from a Republican, this might sound bizarre, but I firmly believe it is true.

In 1994, the Republicans gained control of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Like the Democrats of 2006, they capitalized on the failure of one national issue identified with the entire other party (nationalized health insurance in 1994, Iraq in 2006). Both the Republicans of 1994 and the Democrats of 2006 also gained because of general voter disgust with the sleaze in Washington.

But unlike the Democrats of 2006, Republicans in 1994 ran on a unified plan, which mostly involved ideas for fiscal responsibility and government reform. It contained plans for an audit and a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced budget.

Republicans lost this election because they lost their soul: most congressional Republicans ignored the principles of fiscal conservatism and government reform that got them elected. I am a Republican because I believe in those principles, which lead to a balanced budget and small, clean, unobtrusive government. To return to power, Republicans must return to these themes.

Pork-barrel spending, the practice of inserting money into bills to benefit only specific districts or states, is a major problem for most conservatives. It forces the federal government to pay for projects that are local and state issues, such as the $100,000 restoration of a clock tower on a county courthouse in Washington in 2004.

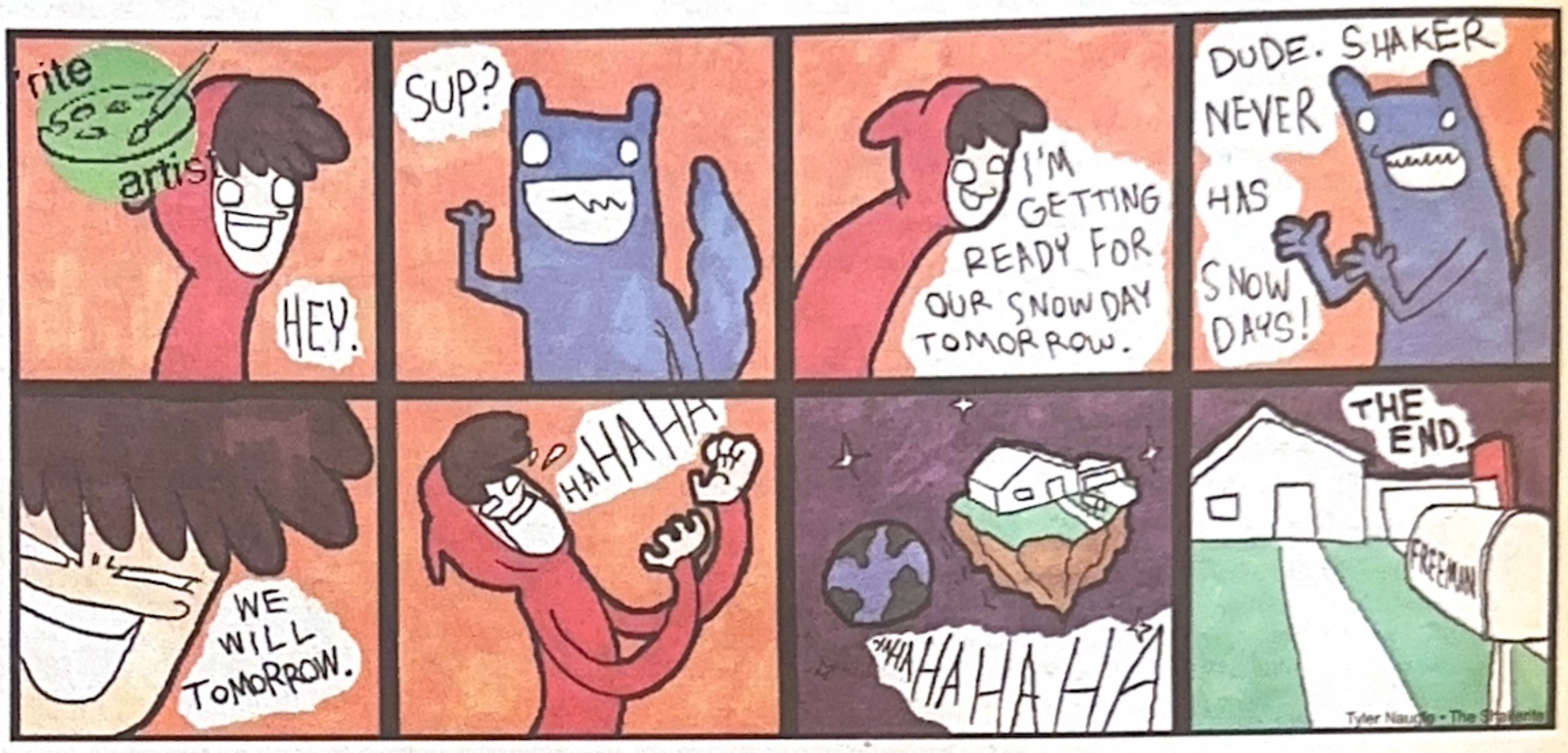
Worse, these projects are often ridiculous. In 2004 alone, the federal government spent $500,000 for buses at Disneyland and $50 million for an indoor rainforest in Iowa. These projects should not exist because they are not the federal government's business, and a Republican effort to retake Congress should include a plan for ending them.

Perhaps the worst sin committed by the Republican Party was its corruption and malfeasance. Ohio's own Bob Ney was forced to resign over his connections with imprisoned lobbyist Jack Abramoff, and many other Republicans had significant ties to him. Four Republicans in the previous Congress resigned in disgrace. That is unacceptable.

The first step toward cleaning up the Republican Party has already occurred. That step was the removal from office of most of the scandal-ridden incumbents. The second step is to elect new leadership, committed to running a party that voters can trust.

In order for voters to once again have confidence in Republicans with power, the Republicans must prove that they are the party of fiscal responsibility they claim to be. A renewed commitment to limited government and a crusade against pork are key components. Also, Republicans must elect ethical leadership committed to those goals.

Republicans have won elections in the past by being the party of limited government. They must return to these roots.


'rite artist
HEY.
SUP?
I'M GETTING READY FOR OUR SNOW DAY TOMORROW.
DUDE. SHAKER NEVER HAS SNOW DAYS!
WE WILL TOMORROW.
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
THE END.
FREEMAN

Tyler Naudis • The Shakerite

NO BEER FOR THE NEW YEAR

• Parents set bad example for responsible consumption

'rite idea

New Year's Eve is the holiday for getting too drunk to remember watching the ball drop, or at least, that's what it is for many Shaker students.

Whether your glass will be filled with $200 champagne, plastic bottle vodka or the classic Natural Light, it's a New Year's Eve tradition amongst parents and teenagers alike to get completely hammered as the last seconds of the year tick away.

But sadly, this drunken stupor is not just a once-a-year event for high school students.

The consumption of alcohol has become so frequent amongst teenagers that it has lost its scandalous edge. Going to basement parties just to drink has become just as common as going to Ben and Jerry's. Drinking every weekend is just another thing to do for fun.

But losing the ability to have fun without drinking is a form of alcoholism. Alcoholism is a progressive disease. By starting to drink in high school, you're setting yourself up for failure.

During middle school, students could still spend time together without alcohol as a social catalyst. But now in high school, students feel compelled to go to parties and get intoxicated. It seems as though people can't get together and enjoy themselves without ordering a keg. Parties without alcohol are dubbed "lame."

Teenagers are sick of hearing about why they shouldn't drink. But what can you expect when you get drunk on a regular basis? The best way to silence your parents is to show a little maturity.

By the same token, parents need to set a positive example for their children. This does not include creating a forum for teenage alcohol abuse. Parents should not be assisting teenagers in their quest for inebriation by providing a lime for their child's Corona. The parents who provide the two B's for drinking, beer and basements, are not protecting their children from alcohol; rather they are supporting illegal and dangerous actions, which hold both legal and social repercussions.

Being an alcoholic is not just reserved for the homeless or unemployed middle-age men. Drinking every weekend is a form of alcoholism. And alcoholism in any form is dangerous.

Lack of donations result of student apathy

letter to the editor

To the Editors:

As taken aback and upset as I was at reading your column [Volume 77, Issue 4, "Giving Shouldn't Require Incentives"], I have to say we are in agreement about one thing: giving shouldn't require incentives. However, and may I emphasize the however, the same "underachieving math students willing to give up their RTA fare to see the merciless demise of Mr. Slovikovski" will only donate under these circumstances.

The problem lies not within the incentives given, but the lack of drive that the student body has in whole for giving to United Way.

The disappointment that seems to be the general consensus towards the United Way's allotment of donations is being both acknowledged and under construction. Student Council has recently been looking into alternate charities that may be found less "fraudulent" by our school. Though in the mean time, we must try to work with what we have been given, and given the fact that the amount of money donated to United Way has been dwindling rapidly over the past few years, we have been forced to try new things.

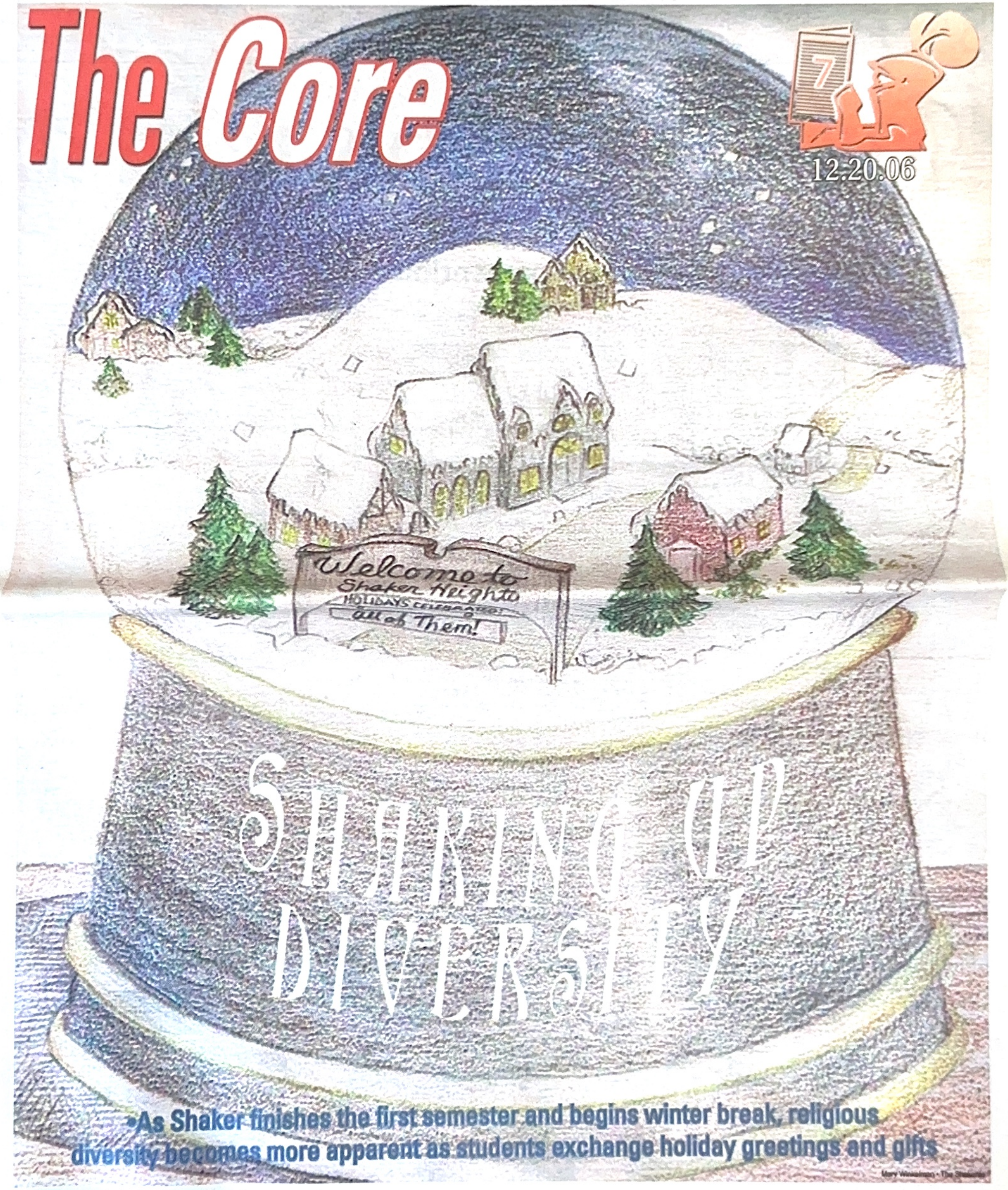
Nonetheless, the most disappointing thing about the column was the bashing of those who donated due to the incentives. Regardless of whether you support United Way or oppose them, whether you participate or not, any way in which the helping of others can be accomplished does not deserve criticism. These "tap-dancing" teachers sacrificed themselves as "embarrassing" incentives not for the pleasure they get in being laughed at, but for the "warm fuzzy feeling" they get knowing that people may just donate now that they've signed on for the cause.

Your column was not just embarrassing; it was uncalled for.

Student Council President,
Katie Stamm

The Core

12.20.06


Welcome to
Shaker Heights
HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED:
All of Them!

SHAKING UP DIVERSITY

•As Shaker finishes the first semester and begins winter break, religious diversity becomes more apparent as students exchange holiday greetings and gifts

Mary [illegible] • The Shakerite

Religion plays relevant role in Shaker

Clubs limited by religious perception

ADRIA KINNEY
STAFF REPORTER

It's no secret that Israeli culture is associated with Judaism or that Christians believe in a single god.

Perhaps it is unsurprising, then, that the Israeli Cultural Club is predominantly Jewish and that Students for God has an all-Christian membership. Katie Mintzer, president of the Israeli Culture Club, is working to make the group more diverse, whereas Students God president Tarresha Poindexter is comfortable with the current status of the club.

The Israeli Culture Club is not religious, according to Mintzer, a senior. Even though Mintzer said that the club is mostly Jewish, she and other participants are working to create fun meetings that they hope will attract a broader cross-section of students.

Junior Dena Balk, a member of the club, thinks that a misconception about the club may explain why the majority of its members are Jewish.

"I feel like a lot of people think it's just a club for Jewish people and that Jews are the only kind of people that can identify with Israel and Israeli culture," Balk said.

Mintzer stressed that the club's focus was general Israeli culture and not specifically religion.

"It's more like the Spanish Culture Club," she said. "That's the best comparison I can give."

Some of the club's activities include movies, guest speakers, baking and studying the conflicts in the Middle East.

"These are things that would appeal to many people, Jewish or not," Mintzer said. "Anyone interested in learning about the conflicts in the Middle East ... in a more personalized way, would probably like the club."

Junior Nathaniel Wiznitzer, also a member, agreed with Mintzer. "It's really fun and more people should join," Wiznitzer said.

Students For God is another club that is dominated by a single religion. All of its members are Christian and the club participates in activities related to Christianity.

Poindexter plans the group activities, which include examining of scriptures from the Bible. In November, the theme was pop culture. "We examine how TV and music affect our spirituality," said Poindexter. "We want to see how the Bible stands on pop culture."

Poindexter said that it's hard to say what draws students to the club. "Maybe it's a place for those who feel like they can't discuss their faith with their friends. There's an underlying force that's drawing them," said Poindexter. "I think it's the spirit of the Lord, and people just haven't realized it yet."

Students for God is not actively recruiting non-Christian students. "We don't discourage other people from coming, it's just that everyone in the club is Christian. I think it's because I'm a Christian and I lead the club," Poindexter said. The club had a booth at the Activity Fair that advertised to everyone, but that it employs no specific tactics to attract a more varied group.

Junior Romero Smith, a member of the club, said that non-Christians would be allowed to join the club if they chose to do so. "We would allow them in the club, and would listen to what they think about God, and then tell them what we believe," Smith said.

> "... If people don't agree with it then they shouldn't join, and let those who like the club enjoy it."
>
> Heather Froimson
> Sophomore

Other monotheistic religions are not represented in the club. Sophomore Heather Froimson, who is Jewish, said, "I never really thought about [joining] before, because it doesn't really seem like they [believe in] the same stuff that we believe in."

Despite not feeling welcomed in the club, Froimson supports its existence. "I think that it should be allowed, because it's an after-school club and people are not required to join ... if people don't agree with it then they shouldn't join, and let those who like the club enjoy it," said Froimson.

Some students, however, believe that clubs such as Israeli Culture Club and Students for God should not be allowed because of their close connections with religion. "It is my personal belief that religious clubs and religion in general have no place in a public school," freshman Pranjal Vachaspati said. "I think it's fine if it's done outside of school, and off of school property and not using school funds ... taxpayers' funds shouldn't be used to promote religion."

ARE YOU OFFENDED BY RELIGIOUS CLUBS SUCH AS STUDENTS FOR GOD?

9% Yes — 91% No

DO YOU FEEL THAT THE RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN SHAKER BENEFITS THE STUDENTS?

76% Yes — 18% Not sure — 6% No

Scientific poll of 120 students with a margin of error +/- 9.5 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.

Teaching Bible raises little more than apathy in sophomore English classes

JOSH CURRY
STAFF REPORTER

The Bible is a staple of Shaker's curriculum. No, science teachers do not teach intelligent design; rather, the Bible is taught in English classes to provide them with a foundation for reading western literature.

Due to the numerous biblical references in high school and college reading, the Shaker English department includes "The Bible as/in Literature" in the tenth grade Honors English curriculum.

Instruction dealing with the Bible is a touchy topic when it comes to public school education. There have been numerous Supreme Court cases involving the separation of church and state.

In 1987, the court ruled that the creation story, a part of the Bible, could not be taught as a science in public schools. However, Shaker's English department has not been scared away from teaching "The Bible as/in Literature" in English classes.

Some students object to the school's decision to include "The Bible as/in Literature" in the curriculum.

"Although the Bible is important for understanding other works of literature, I don't think they should force people to read it," senior Johanna von Seckendorff said. "It imposes on peoples religious views and if they teach the Bible they should teach the Koran and other religious documents."

Shaker, however, does not teach the Bible in a religious context.

"The Bible is part of western culture and literature," explained Ellen Kelly, head of the English department. According to Kelly, the Bible is taught to provide students with a cultural background so that they can understand biblical allusions in both literature and art.

"We are not teaching religion, we're teaching Bible stories," Kelly said.

> "We are not teaching religion, we're teaching Bible stories."
>
> Ellen Kelly
> English department head

Elizabeth Colquitt, who teaches "The Bible as/in Literature" in her tenth grade English classes, said that the book is taught for the students' benefit and not for any religious purposes.

"We teach it so that everyone comes to American literature with the same background knowledge," Colquitt said. "We can't assume anymore that everyone has read religious literature and it is unfair to do so ... understanding the Bible helps students comprehend books and biblical references in text."

She further explained that they do not teach the Koran in class because there are very few references to this religious text in American Literature. "Even though it is not mandatory, I still try to teach alternatives to the Bible, such as the Koran," said Colquitt.

It seems that most students have very few problems with learning the Bible in school. According to a poll conducted by the Shakerite, 74 percent of students did not mind the teaching of "The Bible as/in Literature" (telephone poll of 110 students, margin of error +/- 9.5 percent).

"It was just like any other book," said sophomore Patrick Sutorius, who is a Christian and grew up reading the Bible. "I actually liked it better than most books because I already knew the story and I did well on quizzes and tests."

Like Sutorius, Eian Katz, a Jewish sophomore, also had no issues with the book due to previous experience with biblical text.

"I went to Agnon, a Jewish school, when I was younger, so I already knew most of the stories," Katz said. "I'm pretty sure nobody took offense at the book and if they did they didn't show it."

Sophomore Bharat Gupta, a Hindu, has had very little prior contact with the Bible. However, he took no offense at reading "The Bible as/in Literature."

"It was kind of interesting but mainly boring like any other book," Gupta said.

Joanna Mitchell - The Shakerite

SHAKERITE REFERENCE GUIDE TO RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

HINDUISM

Considered to be the oldest living religion in the world, Hinduism originated when the religion of the Aryans synchronized with indigenous religion in 1500 B.C. India. Most Hindus believe in a supreme cosmic spirit called Brahman, represented by individual deities such as Vishnu, Shiva and Shakti, who have followers in different regions. Hindu practices are meant to help people experience the mysticism surrounding them and realize the true nature of the self through their connection to nature. Hinduism has no single founder and is based on a number of religious texts developed over many centuries that contain spiritual insights and practical guidance for religious life.

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity was founded in Palestine by the followers of Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the son of God. The primary sources for Jesus' life and teaching are the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which are accounts of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus and include the basic subject matter of Christian preaching and teaching. Currently, Christianity dominates in Europe and the Americas, where it has been a powerful historical force and cultural influence. It has followers in almost every country of the world.

JUDAISM

According to the biblical explanation, Jewish history begins with the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who considered Canaan (an area comprising present-day Israel and the West Bank) their home. The most important holy days are the weekly Sabbath, the major holidays of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Passover and Shavuot, which are observed through fasts and visits to synagogue. Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur, the day of atonement fall in autumn. Shavuot, remembering the receipt of the Ten Commandments and Passover, which commemorates the exodus of Hebrews from slavery, are in the spring. Minor holidays include Hanukkah and Purim.

WICCA

Wicca is a neo-pagan religious movement found in countries such as the United States. In 1954, a British civil servant, Gerald Gardner, published the claim that the religion was a modern revival of the pre-Christian Paganism of Europe. Many traditions of Wicca remain secretive and require an initiation. There is also a movement of Eclectic or Solitary Wiccans who do not believe that any doctrine or traditional initiation is necessary in order to practice Wicca. Wiccans observe eight major festivals, Sabbats, and Esbats, celebrations of the full moon. They also follow the Wiccan Rede, that people can do what they wish as long as it does no harm.

SCIENTOLOGY

The Church of Scientology is a philosophical religion founded by Lafayette Ronald Hubbard. — Hubbard's book, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," written in 1950 acts as a principle source of reference for the religious group. It offered an alternative path to overcoming physical and mental stress such as auditing. The first church was established in 1954. In 1998 there were more than 3,000 churches, missions and groups worldwide, with headquarters in Los Angeles.

AGNOSTICISM

Agnosticism is the belief that the legitimacy of certain claims regarding religion and the existence of God or gods is unknown or unknowable. The term agnostic is used to describe those who are unconvinced of the existence of deities as well as about other matters of religion such as the holiness of prophets and saints. Agnostics claim that either it is not possible to have absolute or certain knowledge or, alternatively, that while certainty may be possible, they personally have no knowledge.

ATHEISM

Atheism is the denial of the existence of any higher beings. It is sometimes seen as a religion but more often thought to be a lack of religion. A popular belief in a conflict between religion and science in the 19th century brought forth leaders of the study of atheism. The 20th century also saw many individuals and groups professing atheism.

ISLAM

Muhammad founded Islam in the seventh century. It is the youngest of the three monotheistic world religions. At the core of Islam is the Koran, believed to be the final revelation by Allah (God) to Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. The divine word was revealed in Arabic, so this language is used in Islamic religious practice worldwide. Muslims believe in final reward and punishment, and the unity of the umma, the nation of Islam.

BUDDHISM

Buddhism is a religion and philosophy founded in India in 525 B.C. by Siddhartha Gautama, called the Buddha. There are over 300 million Buddhists worldwide. Buddhists follow the teachings of Buddha in hopes of reaching nirvana (liberation from rebirth). Buddhists also believe in reincarnation and karma, which states that one's state in this life is a result of physical and mental actions in past incarnations, and action in this life can determine one's destiny in future incarnations.

KABBALAH

Kabbalah is an ancient system of interpreting the Jewish scriptures handed down orally from Abraham but one that probably came about during the 11th century in France. Though usually thought of as a type of Judaism, some scholars believe that it reflects a strong Neoplatonic (pagan philosophers based on the teaching of Plotinus) influence, especially in its guidelines on the release and migration of souls. Kabbalah still has followers and is seen as a form of Jewish mysticism.

Compiled by Nimi Nanda
Compiled from The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia

In defense of atheism

DIANA JACK

I am an atheist. Ever since I was young I believed that the big-bang theory was the only creation possibility and that my parents and teachers were the only people I had to please. All of that came crashing down when I entered school as a four-year-old.

In my kindergarten class at Garity Elementary School, I met a Muslim, an Orthodox Jew and a number of die-hard Christians. I was friends with all of them, but I didn't realize that we were incredibly different.

I, being naïve, only knew that the little Jewish girl wore a hat and a skirt every day and that the Muslim was really dark-skinned, unlike me.

Fast forward to seventh grade: I'm sitting at lunch with my best friend, a fellow atheist, and two others, heatedly discussing religion. My friend and I were experiencing an attempt at conversion.

"How do you think these beautiful people and beautiful faces were created without a God?" demanded our opponent. We just sat there, thinking, 'not everyone is beautiful.'

Since I have learned what religion is and why people follow it, I have decided that it's just not for me. I feel that I've been taught enough morals and judgment by my parents to decide for myself what is good. I also don't need strange men in robes telling me that I will burn after I die if I don't give to charity or the church.

As my best friend eloquently put it, "religion might be good for some people and bad for others, but I just don't have one."

Being an atheist is surprisingly hard. It's easy enough on your own, but when you get to know people who go to church every Sunday or hold Shabbat dinner every Friday night, not to mention classmates bent on conversion, it gets very difficult to hold one's own and not feel guilty.

In the fourth grade I went to Shabbat dinner with a friend's family almost every Friday night. I loved the feeling of family togetherness, and the food ,of course, but I always felt out of place when pretending to say "Baruch atah Adonai…" because I didn't believe that anyone above was hearing us. I still don't.

Last year in the locker room after gym, I found myself between two girls discussing prayer.

Attempting to include me in the conversation, one girl asked what religion I followed. I said, naturally, that I was atheist. The reply: "Wow. So you don't pray or believe in God? Or angels? Or anything? Wow."

About a month ago in English class, in the midst of "The Bible as in Literature" we received a writing prompt that required us to decide if we would be mad at God for testing our loyalty just because he felt like settling a bet, in light of the story of Job.

I wrote that, although I was biased, I would be mad at God, if only for the reason that I don't believe in one and I don't feel that sense of loyalty that religious people do.

Then we had to peer edit each others' paragraphs.

My paper was returned with a comment about how I have to believe in God, learn that all acts were the will of God and that I should never deny God's choices. I was really hurt, actually.

Even though Shaker claims to be religiously tolerant, this acceptance seems to omit the non-religious.

Not many people will say "Oh, you're atheist, that's cool." I try to be as welcoming as possible to my friends' religions and it would be awesome to get that in return.

For students, fad faiths fall short

EMILY KRASSEN
STAFF REPORTER

Madonna wears a red bracelet. Tom Cruise criticizes the use of postpartum depression drugs. Teenagers across the country dress in all black.

Red bracelets and pentacles are not just a bunch of hocus pocus. Scientology, Kabbalah and Wicca are all alternative, but fashionable religious practices.

Kabbalah is a mystical branch of Judaism that has gained popularity through the involvement of celebrities such as Madonna and Britney Spears. According to The Kabbalah Centre, an international place of reference for people who practice Kabbalah, the fad of wearing a red bracelet comes from a traditional belief that the bracelets will ward off negative spirits and jealousy.

Jewish junior Max Rothman thinks that Kabbalah is great for people who practice the religion genuinely, not just it is a fad. "The realness of the religion gets watered [down]. There are two types of Kabbalah, the ancient kind and the fad kind. The real religion [the ancient one] is from the Middle Ages in Spain and it has been around for thousands of years. I doubt Madonna's sincerity, but I don't doubt the scholars who decipher the Torah," Rothman said.

Another religion that has received media coverage through its high profiled celebrity followers, Scientology attracts stars such as Tom Cruise and John Travolta, who have both expressed their appreciation of the religion.

Scientology is secretive in its practices and hypnotism is a rumored tradition of the religion. Members of the congregation donate large amounts of money to the International Association of Scientologists. Former supermodel Jerry Hall abandoned Kabbalah in 2003 after its leaders asked her to solicit substantial donations from her celebrity friends.

In some cases, it is not celebrity backing that draws teenagers to religions. Senior Laurel Van Metre, who practices the alternative religion Wicca, said that she was introduced to the religion by her parents. Her parents belong to a coven, a group of Wiccans who gather for ceremonies and celebrations, in Kent.

> "People can do whatever they want [religiously]. That's the point of living in Shaker . . . "
>
> Sarah Davis
> Social studies teacher

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 people in the U.S. practice Wicca, and 60 percent of these people are under 30 years old, according to The American Religious Identification Survey.

Van Metre said that she does not know anyone else at Shaker who practices Wicca, however, she has not faced persecution for her beliefs. "There are some very Christian people who are intolerant of Wicca but for the most part all of my friends are cool with it . . . the biggest stereotype is that people who practice Wicca worship the devil . . . I have to explain how Wicca is rooted in nature," Van Metre said.

Senior Laurice Shelven, a member of Students For God, said that it is a person's choice to pick what they believe. "My personal belief is that God gave everyone free will and if people choose to practice or believe those things that doesn't offend me in any way . . . I feel like I can say what I believe is right or wrong, but I'll never judge a person," Shelven said.

Although senior John Gregg does not think that Shaker students practice these "trend" religions, he admits to not truly knowing about what they entail. "I know nothing about the Wicca and Kabbalah, but I've learned about Scientology from South Park-and from what I see it's [Scientology] weird," Gregg said.

Senior Julie Seger also does not mind other religions but is not impressed with Scientology. Seger said, "I disagree with Scientology because I believe that chemical depression and that sort of problem really do require medicine."

Junior Esther Kim thinks that fad religions are really interesting but a bit extreme. "I think some of them [fad religions] are taken pretty seriously because I know Kabbalah has been practiced a long time," said Kim.

Although Shaker does not have a comparative religion course, Global Studies and AP World History teacher Sarah Davis believes that religious diversity is covered to some degree with most social studies courses. "People can do whatever they want [religiously]. That's the point of living in Shaker, that's why we teach Oppression, Human Relations, Asian Studies, Facing History and other classes that stress tolerance," Davis said.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

25 percent of students consider themselves to be atheist or agnostic.

Shakerite poll of 130 students with a margin of error +/- 9.5 [illegible] Shakerite staff interviewed students

Mary Winkelman • The Shakerite

UNDERGROUND CONCERT LIST

12/22/06 The Broadview Gutters/ Second Half / Special Blend/ Skeeg @ Grog Shop
12/27/06 Kiddo/ Bella Sylva/ Argyle Denial @ The Beachland Ballroom
1/11/07 Fall Out Boy, New Found Glory, Permanent Me, The Early November @ The Agora
1/19/07 The Tough and Lovely/ Dropdead Sons @ The Beachland Ballroom
1/21/07 Sloan/ Thunderbirds are Now! @ Grog Shop

INTO NEW WOODS

• Theatre department takes on three-hour musical

BY SIMONE DUVAL
STAFF REPORTER

Once upon a time, there was a knife-wielding Red-Riding Hood, a bored Cinderella, a widowed giant and a desperate Baker. Not your typical fairy tale? Well, "Into the Woods" isn't your typical play.

The musical, by Steven Sondheim, explores the intriguing possibility of a fairy-tale community situated on the outskirts of a large wood. The neighborhood is populated by the characters from Brothers Grimm fairy tales, including Cinderella, Jack (and his beanstalk), Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and her surrogate mother, the Witch.

The musical opened with an introduction to the characters and their problems, most notably the Baker's and his Wife's desire to have a child, Cinderella's wish to go to the festival and Jack's sad task of selling his cow and friend, Milky White, at the market. The play took off from this point and wove the characters' stories together. The act ended with most characters thinking that they had ended up happily ever after.

"The main theme [of the play] is based off of fairy tales that children know. But there's also adult themes mixed in, like adultery, deceit, stealing and all sorts of other crimes," said sophomore Stephen Brakey, who played the steward to Cinderella's prince.

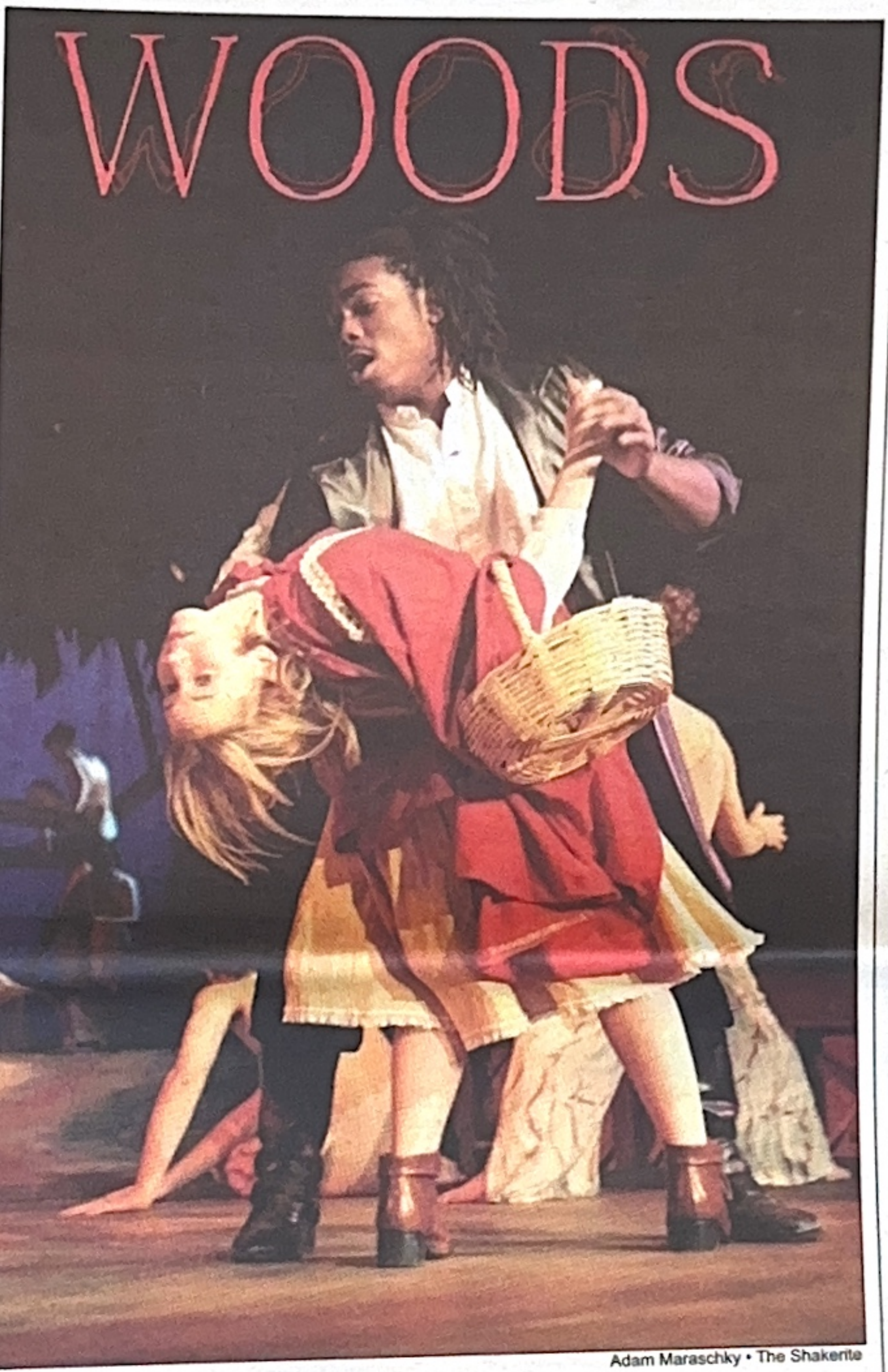
Act II revealed how unhappy happily ever after can be for the characters; Cinderella was bored at the palace, the Baker and his Wife wanted more room for their new family in their cottage and a giant had crushed the Witch's garden. A few characters die at the hands of the giant and the neighbors realize they must unite to defeat the giant and save what is left of their community.

This show debuted at Nov. 30, and ran through Dec. 2. Box office manager and theatre teacher David Schiopota confirmed that the box office sold 1,001 tickets over the weekend.

The three-hour show was staged by current Shaker students and Tracy Nicole Chapman ('80), who provided guidance as well as the voice of the giant in the second act. Theatre Department Chairwoman Christine McBurney directed the production, the student orchestra supplied the live music and sound effects and the movement company provided the scenery.

The magnitude of a three-hour show took its toll on the company. "It was stressful. I never knew where I was. It was frantic," said junior Max Chernin about the rehearsals for the performance.

In the end, the process was worth it. "I thought it was a fun experience with the cast," said junior Rebecca Semel. "Also crazy, chaotic."



Adam Maraschky • The Shakerite

SENIOR IAN LEWIS and freshman Molly Israel rehearse for the Shaker Theatre Department's fall musical Into the Woods. The show featured both a movement and a performance company.

The involvement of the movement company, which consisted of 22 students, added a new aspect to the musical. Before the production, the company practiced a concept described as "suspended animation."

"Suspended animation is taking a normal movement and remaining motionless in that position, though the body is still breathing and alive," company member sophomore Katie Kooser said.

On stage, the movement company displayed this concept by remaining virtually frozen for periods of five minutes at a time. Positioned in wooden props, on the stage floor and right alongside the performers, the company provided an interesting background and scenery.

"I thought it was really cool how they tied all the stories together."

Candice Cunningham • Junior

"I was amazed at the talent my fellow schoolmates had."

Jacob Hutt • Sophomore

"The orchestra, costumes and the set pulled it all together."

Julie Seger • Senior

"They incorporate[d] modern beats into their music and jokes."

Asha Smith • Freshman

Fall show spectacular

While the premise of "Into the Woods" may be a little goofy and childish, Shaker's rendition of Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award winning musical was truly a fairy tale.

The premise of "Into the Woods" juxtaposes several fairy tales into the same setting and then examines what happens to the characters after the "happily ever after" ending. The first act is the more typical fairy tale, with Sondheim's comments on society veiled and a happy ending, while the second act deals with much darker ideas and does not provide the viewer with a very good feeling about life.

TEDDY CAHILL

The first act of "Into the Woods" touches upon the subjects of rape, lies, the trials of love, the hope to remain young and the difficulties of bringing a child into the world. The act brings together the fairy tales Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel and is tied together by the story of a baker and his wife's quest for a child.

The highlight of the first act was the interaction between junior Joanna Mitchell's Cinderella and junior Rebecca Semel's Baker's Wife. These moments were a respite from the strong satirical comment, simply showing the Baker's Wife's desire to experience the good fortune that Cinderella had. The two actresses showed the developing emotions they both experienced during their trip into the woods.

The second act was a combination of the stresses of relationships and a satirical view of how we react in a crisis. Infidelity brings an end to the fairy tale for the three main couples of the play, ending two marriages and breaking Rapunzel away from her overprotective stepmother.

The second act reminded me much more of a Shakespearean tragedy than a typical Broadway musical. If I had wanted to see bodies pile up onstage, I would have seen "Hamlet" at John Carroll University a month ago. Though Sondheim's excessive bloodlust distanced me from the action onstage, I was still amazed by the excellent acting. Junior Max Chernin's character, the Baker, was very convincing after the death of his wife.

Throughout the play, Mitchell and senior Annie Sivertson, who played the Witch, delivered two of the strongest performances. While it may have helped that both were still standing at the end of the play, both were able to carry the play through its darkest moments of the second act.

Among those who died, Semel and junior Jack Sutorius' Narrator, were superb, even in their slightly abbreviated time on stage. Also outstanding in minor roles were junior Peter Schiraldi as the Baker's father and junior Amanda Goldman who played Jack's mother.

While the play was overall wonderful it was not without its shortcomings. Many times, especially early in the play, the words of the songs were lost in a packed auditorium and under the overpowering pit orchestra. However, the songs that did reach the audience were beautiful and there were many humorous moments throughout an otherwise disconcerting play.

CLEVELAND ROCKS, REALLY

JOSH DAVIDSON

Believe in Cleveland.

The slogan from the government of our fair city often leaves teenagers confused about its plausibility.

I'm going to venture and say that, yes, there is a Cleveland to believe in. It is not in the heart of our decrepit downtown, nor is it in the plastic society of Beachwood Mall.

The true beauty of Cleveland can be found in the quirky neighborhoods that surround Cleveland proper. In these tightly knit, sometimes gritty parts of northeast Ohio, people can find the culture they long for.

The first place that I recommend investigating is Ohio City. Don't tell your mom and dad where you are going though, because ten years ago this neighborhood had a bad reputation. But today, Ohio City features a burgeoning economy and diverse scene that seems to stand out from the rest of Cleveland.

On one block, West 25th street, there is an Indonesian import store, the historic West Side Market, a Cambodian restaurant, Moda dance club and the ever-popular Kan Zaman middle-eastern restaurant and hookah bar.

If clothes are your fancy, follow West 25th's cross street Lorain Avenue, where you will find the best Unique Thrift Store in Cleveland as well as the vintage clothing and furniture store Suite Lorain.

The coolest thing about this neighborhood is that it is easily accessible to those of us (myself included) who don't have a driver's license. The Red Line of the Rapid Transit System stops across the street from the West Side Market.

Another neighborhood to check out on the West side is Madison Avenue in Lakewood (also accessible by the Rapid Transit's red line). This area is a mix of alternative Cleveland interspersed with bar after working class bar.

Excluding the alcohol establishments, one can find the best music store in the area, My Mind's Eye; the store's staff includes the lead singer of Cleveland's hardcore heroes, Nine Shocks Terror. The selection of music at this establishment ranges from thrash-core like Municipal Waste to underground hip-hop like MF Doom.

Two doors down is the best skateboarding shop, Westside Skates, which also contains an entire room of shoes that appeals to skaters as well as common folk.

The final factor that merits belief is the live music. Cleveland is the best town in America to see bands perform.

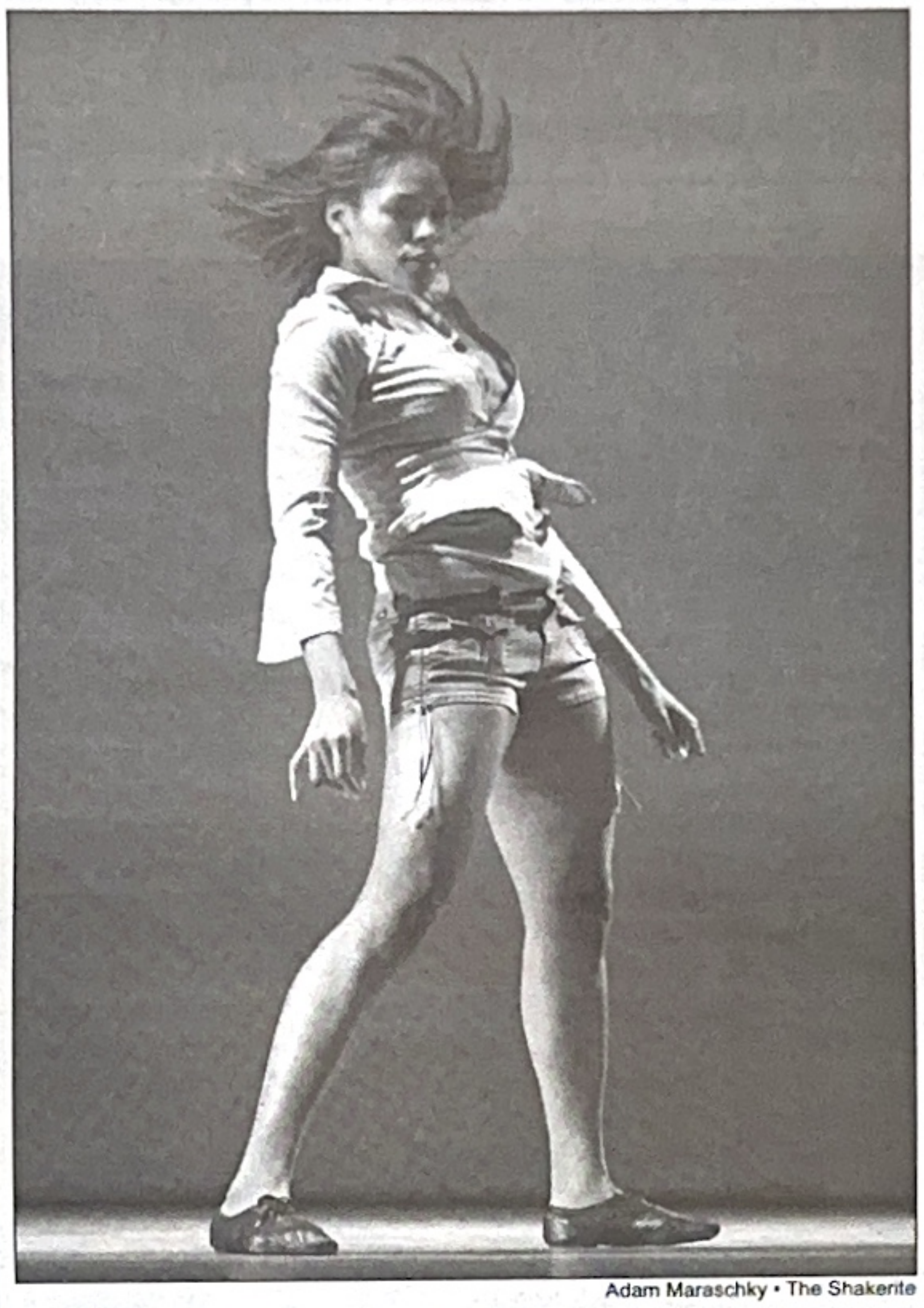
Yes, the best.

Every night of the week, 365 days of the year, there are bands playing in our area. Whether it's the chart toppers playing Tower City Amphitheater or underground punks playing houses shows, the music scene here is unbelievable.

The best club to check out is not in the best neighborhood. The Beachland Ballroom, located in Collinwood, brings in top-notch underground and not-so-underground acts (Say Anything played there last month) every night of the week. Located inside an old Croatian dance hall, with retro B-movie posters lining the walls, this club definitely provides the definition of a cool Cleveland experience.

Another venue that is in a much better neighboorhood is the Grog Shop located in Coventry Village. This bastion of live music used to be a living room sized club at the the bottom of Coventry. After years in that spot they lost their lease and moved into the old Arabica up the street and totaly renovated the space. Now the Grog Shop one of the premier live venues for both local and national acts.

It is possible to love this town. Just take a look around and you will uncover a plethora of interesting things to do in our eclectic city. All you have to do is get out and find it.



Adam Maraschky • The Shakerite

DANCE CLUB CO-PRESIDENT Alexis Pounds performs to Justin Timberlake's "Sexy Back."

Modern movement

• Dance club dazzles audience

BY CARRIE REESE
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Modern dance club can still pack a house even when the biggest game of the year is down the street.

Despite it being the same night of the University School hockey game, the club's performance had quite a turn out Friday, Dec. 8.

The styles of dance consisted of hip-hop, jazz and even tap-dance, all danced to mixes of hip-hop, R&B and pop music. The tap-dance piece was especially well done and stood out in the middle of the show. This dance was preformed to "All She Wants to do is Dance" by Don Henley. The choreographers, senior Lizzy Quigley and junior Alison O'Connor, started out the piece tapping to the song and were later joined by other dancers as well as the rhythmic claps of the audience.

The members of Modern Dance Club were very professional and made a few minor mistakes in the beginning of the show, which did not affect the overall performance. The show was professionally done and it was obvious that there was a lot of hard work put into the performance.

The presidents of Modern Dance Club are seniors Alexis Pounds and Quigley. The club's officers include juniors O'Connor, Cedrit Lenord, Kasie Spenser, and Wakynna Hamilton. The performances of the presidents and officers clearly stood out and their several years of participation in the club were apparent in their creative routines.

The highlight of the show was an intricate piece set to "Ring the Alarm" and began with an imitation of the Beyonce music video by India Rogers, who choreographed it along with Spenser. The dramatic ending consisted of a series of gunshots and a pretend shootout that was so accurately done, it was almost believable. All the dancers were right on cue throughout the complicated dance and received a standing ovation from the audience.

Get this

Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com

"FLY SCHOOL REUNION" BY GIANT PANDA

"I like the old school hip-hop beats, which is done primarily using analog equipment. It has a different sound than anything on the market now and all of their songs are about having fun and just expressing yourself ... and although I like the songs about cars and flossing, artists now are terrible at coming up with new innovative ways to say things so they just repeat each other. Sometimes on Fly School Reunion, they speak about relevant stuff, like biases in the song 'Racist'," said senior Jeromy Ko.

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON" BY LIL WAYNE

Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com

"My favorite rapper is Lil Wayne. There are a lot of punch lines and metaphors and that's what I like about [the album]. Lil Wayne is very lyrical," said junior Seth Williams, whose favorite song on the album is "Army Gun."

Compiled by Carrie Reese

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The Beat

12.20.06

heard in the halls

"You is not in Africa; take those books off your head."
12/5

"You can't save Darfur with an iPod!"
11/5

Person 1: "How do you prevent birth control?"
Person 2: "Abstinence"
12/11/06

Person 1: "B----!"
Person 2: "Oh! He just called you a female cat . . . I mean dog!"
12/6

"Snails . . . I doubt that's kosher."
12/9

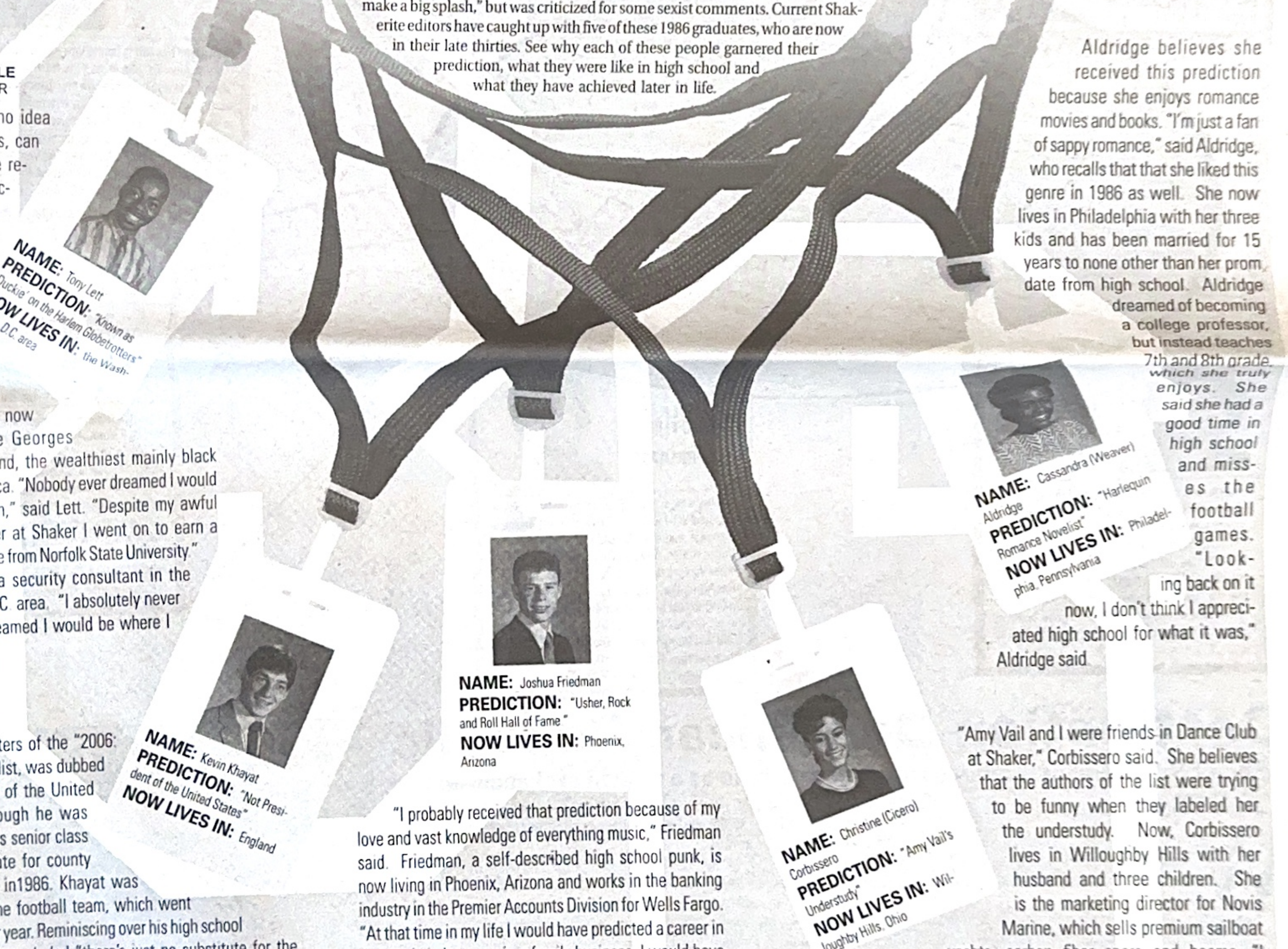
Person 1: (singing) "We all need somebody to lean on."
Person 2: "Get off me."
11/30

FUTURE SHOCK: 20 YEARS LATER

• 1986 grads predicted where they would be in 20 years. Twenty years has caught up to them. Were their predictions correct?

BY SARAH WEISS
THE BEAT EDITOR

The June 1986 issue of The Shakerite published a letter titled "2006: Future shock," which predicted the whereabouts of 103 seniors in the 1986 graduating class twenty years after leaving high school. Members of the Class of 1986 Mark Douglas, Kevin Khayat and John Schaeffler, the latter two Shakerite editors, compiled the list. According to Khayat, the list was made because "that's what you do your senior year when you're editor and feel like a light-hearted piece to end on." Khayat recounts that "the article didn't exactly make a big splash," but was criticized for some sexist comments. Current Shakerite editors have caught up with five of these 1986 graduates, who are now in their late thirties. See why each of these people garnered their prediction, what they were like in high school and what they have achieved later in life.



NAME: Tony Lett
PREDICTION: "Known as 'Duckie' on the Harlem Globetrotters"
NOW LIVES IN: the Washington, D.C. area

NAME: Kevin Khayat
PREDICTION: "Not President of the United States"
NOW LIVES IN: England

NAME: Joshua Friedman
PREDICTION: "Usher, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame"
NOW LIVES IN: Phoenix, Arizona

NAME: Christine (Cicero) Corbissero
PREDICTION: "Amy Vail's Understudy"
NOW LIVES IN: Willoughby Hills, Ohio

NAME: Cassandra (Weaver) Aldridge
PREDICTION: "Harlequin Romance Novelist"
NOW LIVES IN: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bobby O'Connor• The Shakerite

BY KELLY EISELE
THE BEAT EDITOR

Lett, who has no idea who "Duckie" is, can only imagine he received this prediction for being on the basketball team. Lett graduated with a 1.1 GPA and had three suspensions his senior year, but now lives in Prince Georges County, Maryland, the wealthiest mainly black county in America. "Nobody ever dreamed I would amount to much," said Lett. "Despite my awful academic career at Shaker I went on to earn a bachelors degree from Norfolk State University." Today, Lett is a security consultant in the Washington, D.C. area. "I absolutely never would have dreamed I would be where I am today."

Khayat, one of the writers of the "2006: Future Shock" list, was dubbed "not president of the United States," although he was president of his senior class and a candidate for county commissioner in1986. Khayat was a center for the football team, which went 10-0 his senior year. Reminiscing over his high school years, Khayat concluded "there's just no substitute for the social side of it and all the stuff we got up to, in and out of school. Yet somehow I never spent a night in jail." Khayat went to London to complete his master's degree in European Social Policy and has now settled down in the town of Stafford, Staffordshire with his four children and two stepchildren. Khayat tries to visit Shaker every few years to catch up with his brothers and old friends. "One thing I find odd, or rather all my friends and colleagues do, is that I'm very proud of being from Cleveland, Ohio," Khayat said.

"I probably received that prediction because of my love and vast knowledge of everything music," Friedman said. Friedman, a self-described high school punk, is now living in Phoenix, Arizona and works in the banking industry in the Premier Accounts Division for Wells Fargo. "At that time in my life I would have predicted a career in the music industry, or in a family business. I would have never thought to have gravitated towards the banking industry," Friedman said. Friedman has some very memorable experiences in the musical field, which makes this prediction close to heart. "I have been fortunate enough to have maintained and made friendships with many people in the music industry. I have traveled with bands and even played on stage with a few bands," Friedman said.

Aldridge believes she received this prediction because she enjoys romance movies and books. "I'm just a fan of sappy romance," said Aldridge, who recalls that that she liked this genre in 1986 as well. She now lives in Philadelphia with her three kids and has been married for 15 years to none other than her prom date from high school. Aldridge dreamed of becoming a college professor, but instead teaches 7th and 8th grade, which she truly enjoys. She said she had a good time in high school and misses the football games. "Looking back on it now, I don't think I appreciated high school for what it was," Aldridge said.

"Amy Vail and I were friends in Dance Club at Shaker," Corbissero said. She believes that the authors of the list were trying to be funny when they labeled her the understudy. Now, Corbissero lives in Willoughby Hills with her husband and three children. She is the marketing director for Novis Marine, which sells premium sailboat yachts, carbon fiber spars and booms. "I manage all facets of marketing including print collateral, website design, advertising and sales training for over 30 dealers of our three brands world wide," said Corbissero. In addition, she is also the owner of a multimedia design firm, Gryphon Media Group. She has designed the websites of Pickwick and Frolics, The Lake County YMCA and many others. Corbissero always thought that she would be living in New York or Chicago, but she said that she still loves Cleveland, despite the cold and mud.

Global Guests

• Six students from around the world join the High School community as foreign exchange students for the school year

VINCENT BOISARD

FRANCE

Boisard, a sophomore, is the youngest foreign exchange student at Shaker this year. He wanted to come to the United States to share his culture with Americans and to improve his English. Boisard misses food from his home country and the fact that he could drink alcohol with his family at dinner in France. On the other hand, he really likes the football here, which is not popular in France, and he enjoys having school end at 3:00 p.m. instead of at 6:00 p.m.

FLORIAN MOCKEL

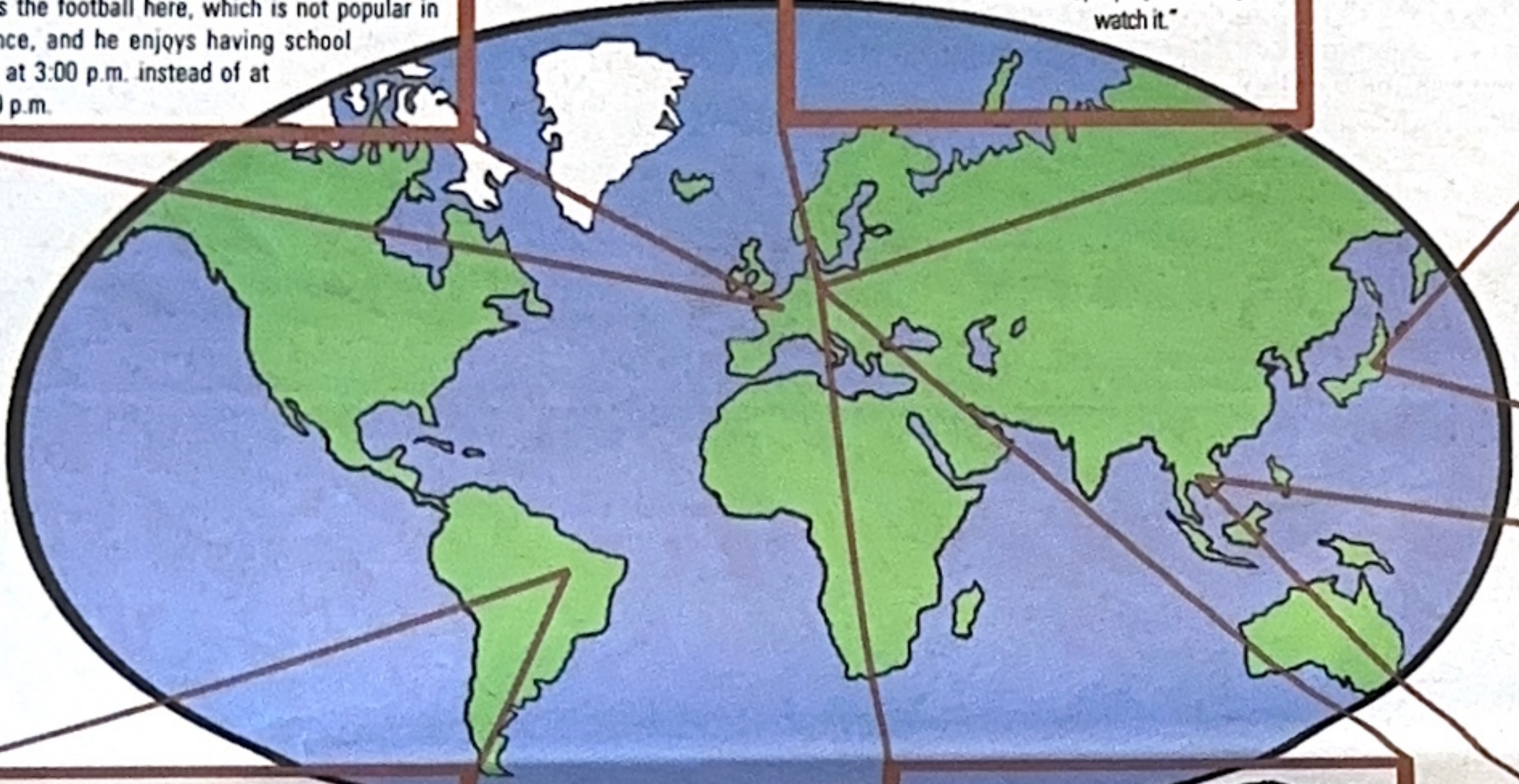
GERMANY

Mockel wanted to come to the United States for "cultural learnings of America for make benefit glorious nation of *Germany*," playing on the subtitle of the movie Borat. He misses team handball and riding his bike on trails, which are activities he participates in at his home in Germany. Since Mockel has been in the United States, he has been most surprised that "no matter how boring baseball is, people [Americans] still watch it."

SHOKO KAWAKAMI

JAPAN

Kawakami has had to adjust the most to the food here in America. She misses the fresh fish from Japan, and was surprised how oily American food is. On the contrary, she loves the homemade chocolate brownies her host family made. Kawakami's favorite thing she has done so far is going to the theater to see "Cats". She misses her friends and her old school, but hopes to learn about American culture and English while she is here.



Tyler Naugle • The Shakerite

SAI TRUSSMA

THAILAND

Trussma's favorite thing about the United States is that on Fridays, she can "go out and hang out with friends. In Thailand, on Saturdays and Sundays we study." She also likes playing sports here, but misses her parents. Trussma wanted to become a foreign exchange student because when she was younger, she "saw other people who had a good experience." Trussma was very surprised about the relationship between teachers and students in the U.S. "Students here don't give much respect to their teachers. They talk and leave the classroom without permission."

RICCARDO PEGORARI

BRAZIL

Pegorari has become very involved in the Student Group on Race Relations, Future Educators of America and AFS-ISO since he started at Shaker. Learning English was his primary goal in coming to the United States. He thinks Americans are "so friendly and nice and polite," and that they are very patriotic. Pegorari does not like that "here, I have to be home at midnight. In Brazil, I come home at seven in the morning." He also misses his family in Brazil.

ULF GROTHEY

GERMANY

Grothey is the only foreign exchange student at Shaker not associated with AFS-ISO, a club that organizes exchange programs. He had a choice between the United States, New Zealand and Canada, and he chose the United States as his destination because it was "the easiest" due to the large numbers of families willing to host a foreign student. Since he has been in the United States, Grothrey has been to Niagara Falls and Washington D.C. Grothrey has played soccer in Germany since he was five, and was pleasantly surprised that students play soccer here too.

Compiled by Sarah Weiss

Destination Dominican Republic

• Senior Sarah Neubert returns from a year abroad as a foreign exchange student

BY KELLY EISELE
THE BEAT EDITOR

With only one year of Spanish under her belt, then-junior Sarah Neubert left last August for a 10-month stay in the Dominican Republic, a country located in the Caribbean.

"Sophomore year, my family hosted a student from the Dominican Republic. It[the Dominican Republic] sounded really fun and I decided I wanted to go live there," Neubert said. Neubert travelled through a program set up by the American Field Service International Student Organization.

According to Neubert, one of the major differences between school in Shaker and school overseas was that, in the Dominican Republic, students often did not respect the teachers. Neubert witnessed students throwing things at the teacher, getting up and leaving in the middle of class, and not paying attention. "There was no discipline," Neubert said.

Neubert felt slightly uncomfortable in the Dominican Republic at the outset of her trip. "Living in a different family was awkward at first. You don't know what's expected culturally and you feel out of place," Neubert said. Neubert found it difficult to adjust to the household's maid because she wasn't used to having one, but she felt more at ease after two months.

Neubert felt that her Spanish skills improved while she was in the Dominican Republic, although the language transition took some time. "It was frustrating because I knew what I wanted to say but didn't know how to say it," Neubert said. She found it most difficult to communicate feelings. "I didn't really let myself get angry or sad because I knew I couldn't express it," Neubert said. On the contrary, "the coolest thing was, after a few months, I began to dream in Spanish."

"Culturally, the hardest thing to adjust to was how people treat women," Neubert said. While Neubert and her host sister spent one Sunday cleaning the house for hours, her host brother simply had to wash the car. In the streets, men whistled at women and called them names.

Neubert is planning to spend at least one semester abroad while in college, and is considering studying either Spanish or international business.

Neubert views her exchange trip as an overall eye-opening experience. "It teaches you things that you can't learn out of a textbook."

Photo courtesy of Sarah Neubert

SARAH NEUBERT, THEN a junior, walks in the mountains of the Dominican Republic with her two host sisters during the spring break of her year abroad.

• The BCS creates excitment throughout the holiday season

I don't care what anybody says; I like the Bowl Championship Series. I like the Toyota Gator Bowl, the MasterCard Alamo Bowl and the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl. I like having every day filled with football, from Christmas through the first week of January.

SAM WINEGARDNER

Critics of the BCS want to abolish it in favor of a playoff, but what they don't realize is that every game IS a playoff. Every game of the season has the added intensity of being a must win because of how devastating losses are to national title hopes. A playoff would be too lengthy and run into finals; after all, in college they still are supposedly student-athletes. In addition, a playoff system would negate millions of dollars in revenue for the schools, because part of the incentive for a school to go to the bowl is the exposure and money it brings to the school.

I'll admit that the BCS isn't perfect. Yes, two years ago Auburn was undefeated and deserved a shot at the title as much as Oklahoma and Southern California did. But, after Auburn only won their bowl game by three points, there was no doubt that USC was the nation's best team. The BCS needs to be tweaked, not killed.

First, make strength of schedule the most important factor in deciding the rankings. A one-loss team that plays a tough schedule should be playing in the championship over an undefeated team from a weak conference.

Second, don't conduct the coaches' or media polls until the third week of the season. This way teams won't be penalized for not having preseason buzz and the voters can vote based on performance, not on name and program.

If you want to watch football with playoffs, just wait a day until Sunday and get your fix then, but don't kill college football the way we all know and love. The majority of the time, the best two teams are playing for the title, and when they aren't, everyone has fun debating who should be playing. College football has never had playoffs, so let tradition stand.

BCS MESS

point
counterpoint

Courtesey of photos.signonsandiego.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RUNNING back LenDale White scores a touchdown against Texas in the 2006 Rose Bowl. Recently, college football has come under fire for its national championship selection process.

• Playoff would enhance integrity of college game

As greedy university conference commissioners and university presidents continue to rake in cash from college football's Bowl Championship Series, they fail to realize that an unjust system remains in place.

MIKE YOUNG

The only solution to the current college football setup is a playoff structure.

What is holding back the commissioners of the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pacific 10 and Southeastern conferences? They only want an automatic birth for a team that wins their conference. This guarantees that the conference will make a huge sum of money off of one team's participation in a BCS bowl game.

University presidents complain that a playoff system would hurt the student-athlete; the increased number of games might hinder them academically. The truth is, by cutting one game from the regular season (remember, college football teams just began playing twelve games this year), a team advancing to the championship round of an eight-team playoff would only end up playing one more game than they currently do.

Also, these playoff games would fall on weekends and holidays so that each team gets a week off in between games and each game can be shown on prime-time television (not exactly hurting the bottom line, either).

Hypothetically, college football could start an eight-team playoff beginning with the quarterfinals Dec. 23 of this year. A week later, the semifinal games could be played Jan. 1, 2007, which has traditionally been a day of college football viewing. The following week, beginning Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, which is the date of the national championship game this year, could be reserved for the finals.

People can debate all they want, but the only way to truly find out who deserves to make the national championship game is through a playoff system.

Raiders rejection

Adam Maraschky • The Shakerite

SENIOR SHANNA THOMPSON and junior Lillian Pitts double team an East Tech player during a 79-32 Shaker victory Nov. 29.

Hockey uniforms forget their true colors

WISHING FOR THE UNIFORMS OF OLD:

TEDDY CAHILL

The varsity hockey team may just be keeping up with a growing trend in sports to make black a primary color in their uniforms, but it makes no sense to us. Their new jerseys make black and white the only colors prominently displayed on their home jerseys, neglecting Shaker's main color: red. The new jersey's front, which spells out "Raiders" in black on a white background, replaces Shaker's logo, and while the style may look good on the New York Rangers, it makes the jersey look blank.

BUCKEYES OWN THE DESERT:

MIKE YOUNG

The BCS worked its magical formula to find that the Florida Gators are the opponent for the Ohio State Buckeyes in the national championship game. The undefeated Buckeyes look for their fourth win in five years in a bowl game hosted in Arizona.

Some things to look for in the Jan. 8 match-up:

-Florida's defense did well against the strong run game of Arkansas but they aren't as good as Michigan's run defense, which was ranked number one in the nation before giving up 187 yards rushing against Ohio State.

-Despite the fact that Florida will have the quickest secondary Ohio State has faced all season, it will be very difficult for Florida to stop Ohio State's incredible passing game.

-The over-aggressive defense of Ohio State could have problems against the multiple misdirection plays run by Florida's spread-option attack.

out of bounds

BCS BOWL PREDICTIONS:

Mike- Fiesta: Oklahoma over Boise State (27-21)
Orange: Louisville over Wake Forest (28-10)
Sugar: Louisiana State over Notre Dame (31-14)
Rose: Michigan over Southern California (38-23)
National Championship: Ohio State over Florida (35-24)

Teddy-Fiesta: Boise State over Oklahoma (what's it matter, no one is going to watch)
Orange: Louisville over Wake Forest (27-6)
Sugar: LSU over Notre Dame (24-7)
Rose: Michigan over USC (54-44)
National Championship: Ohio State over Florida (52-20)

THE NOT-SO CIVIL RIGHTS GAME:

The Indians have been selected to play the St. Louis Cardinals in the inaugural Civil Rights Game March 31 in Memphis, an exhibition game before the regular season.

The selection of the Indians is a logical choice due to their success in integrating baseball, signing Larry Doby as the first black player in the American League and hiring the first black manager, Frank Robinson.

The Cardinals, however, were notorious for their early lack of support for integration. After the Brooklyn Dodgers made Jackie Robinson the first black player in baseball in 1946, the Cardinals threatened to strike rather than play against a black player.

The Los Angeles Dodgers would have been a better selection to face the Indians given their civil rights record.

WINBUSH IN THE UPPER ECHELON OF OHIO SENIOR CLASS:

Senior guard Nick Winbush was recently ranked as the 11th best senior men's basketball player in Ohio by HoopScoopOnline.com, after averaging 16.4 points and 9.3 rebounds last season. Ranked number one is Kosta Koufos, a 7-foot-1inch power forward from Canton GlenOak high school, who has committed to Ohio State. Shaker will face sixth ranked William Thomas, a 6-foot-5inch point guard from Shaw, twice this season as a part of Lake Erie League action.

Swimming the early shift

Every Monday and Wednesday at 5 a.m., like clockwork, they rise like zombies, swearing and slamming down on their alarm clocks, wondering why they are up at this ungodly hour on a school day.

These zombies are the early morning swimmers.

SCOTT ROWND

In order to achieve a certain level of success and chase the dreams placed in front of them, a dozen swimmers wake up early to go to the Woodbury pool at 5:45 a.m. and swim a grueling 3000 to 5000 yards (roughly 2 to 3.5 miles).

By the end of practice at 7:20 a.m., when most of the student population is just getting out of bed or climbing into their cars to head over to school, the swimmers take a hot shower and trudge over to school, with a long day still ahead of them.

Knowing from my own experience, I can safely say that these are some of the hardest school days to get through. If I have swim practice *the next day, I often shoot for going to bed before 10 p.m., because staying up later than that studying or doing homework just causes me to fall asleep in class.* Though the thought of getting up early the next morning does drive me to manage my time well, some days I just have to write a big paper or scramble to finish a project. Although I have to get my homework done, I know that the next day I'll be feeling dead in practice.

After a practice, normal activities start to seem a lot harder. The stairs, which are no big obstacle on any other normal day, seem like the Rocky Mountains and your legs are crying at about the sixth step. Your backpack suddenly makes you feel like Atlas, carrying the entire world plus a thick textbook on your shoulders.

Lunch refuels you if you pack enough food, which many swimmers do, though they all seem to inhale it in an incredibly short amount of time.

After lunch, more classes and then we all head back to the pool to swim another practice, this time from 3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. Another 5000 yards or so and we are released to shove in some food, do some homework and then hit the sack, usually exhausted, but looking forward to a couple hours of sleep.

Though early morning swimmers do feel tired, weak and sometimes woozy after a morning practice, we all grit our teeth and battle it out in our various classes, some more tired then others, some wishing that they had gone to bed just a little bit earlier.

And while it may sometimes be harder to succeed academically after a morning practice, the benefits to an early morning swimmer's career in the pool are undeniable. The extra coaching, muscle and technique training pay off eventually. I moan and groan every morning, but when I see my faster time at the end of the year, I'll thank myself for every minute I spent in that pool.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

JUNIOR CESARE ZANNONI practices freestyle after school Dec. 5. Zannoni swims the 50 and 100-yard freestyle, as well as the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle relays, and qualified for the state meet last year in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The swimming team holds morning practices three times a week in addition to the normal afterschool training.

Tough training builds teamwork

BY TEDDY CAHILL AND ADRIA KINNEY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTER

If the words "butterfly" and "dry land" conjure up images of water, chlorine and rubber swim caps, chances are that you are a swimmer.

According to head coach Eric Peterson, the difficulty swimmers go through training for their sport, "It takes a lot of dedication, effort and hard work," he said.

All the hard work that the swimmers put into their sport has led to a surprising sense of unity in an activity that is more often thought of as an individual sport.

Senior Erin Cox, who swam for part of her freshman, sophomore and junior years, knows all about the sense of camaraderie that swimming requires. In her junior year, Cox was forced to stop swimming in the middle of the season after an elbow injury. Despite the fact that her season was cut short, Cox has strong feelings about the swim team.

"I miss everything," Cox said. "The team is so close because you go through so many hard practices together."

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

PRACTICING FREESTYLE, JUNIOR Allie Russ trains for the upcoming season. The swimming team's next meet is Dec. 22 at Euclid

Freshman Tim Dixon expressed similar feelings and said that a factor in his joining the team was that he had friends who were also on the team.

"I like the fact that we can all encourage each other," Dixon said.

Though swimming is mostly an individual sport, the swimmers feel that they have to encourage each other because their record is determined on a team basis.

"Everyone has a bad swim, so you have to help each other out," junior Cesare Zannoni said. "You don't want that to affect their overall goals because of one bad day."

That social aspect of the team rewards the swimmers' hard work, according to Peterson. "It's a really close-knit team," he said. "There's a real camaraderie among the swimmers."

Dixon is motivated because, "I want to achieve the time goals that the coaches have set for me and that I have set for myself." Dixon enjoys the fact swimming is simultaneously an individual and team sport.

This year the swim team has to overcome the loss of its leaders from last year. "We did not lose a lot [of swimmers] numerically, but there were a lot of talented swimmers who graduated," Peterson said.

The team's bond has grown closer this year due to the absence of senior leadership on the team.

"The whole team has to be leaders this year," Zannoni said. "We only have four seniors this year and last year we had lots more."

Senior Lee Davis, who has been swimming for two years, joined because his football coach rewarded players who participated in other sports. "I suck at basketball, so I joined the swim team." Davis said.

"What I don't like is that people don't respect it. Guys will stay stuff like, 'Dude you're gay because you swim' and they don't realize that it's way harder than anything that they do," Davis said.

From the long hours the swimmers spend in the pool together to team dinners before and after each meet, the swimming team develops a strong sense of unity over the course of the season.